

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2017

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



The end of the Australian Open always signals the start of the year proper for me – when Melbourne really gets busy and business-like again.

I've just been glued to the men's final between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal and I was struck by several things. They played hard but fair. They both expressed frustration and disappointment at times, but it was only ever to themselves about what they themselves were doing. When it was over, they embraced warmly, with obvious mutual respect. When they spoke, they spoke with grace and humility and generosity. And the crowd loved them for it.

What does that have to do with bridge? Several things!

The Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra also winds up in late January but I'm thinking more about how we carry ourselves in and around bridge.

It's normal and ok to be disappointed when things go wrong at the table, but all the players I respect think about it in terms of what they can do or could have done better – blaming somebody else is very low on their

list if it's there at all. When the game is over, they acknowledge and respect their opponents. And thank them for the game.

We can't all be great players but we can all be great people.

NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

Committee Updates: As part of its annual review of committees, the VBA has merged the Marketing and Education responsibilities into one committee – Marketing and Education – with the new committee to be chaired by Christopher Leach. Christopher is joined on the committee by VBA President Ben Thompson, and Waverley President Rob Quirk.

The Match and Tournament Committee will be chaired by Dale Sheather, who is joined on the committee by new council member Michael Phillips, with Laurie Kelso and Diana Smart continuing as members.

Michael Phillips has also taken on Website Management as Chair with Ben Thompson and webmaster Terry Crawford continuing in support. Members interested in joining any of the committees should contact the VBA Secretary for more information on how to get involved.

Webmaster Wanted: The VBA website rebuild is nearly completed and we are seeking a new webmaster to take over from Terry Crawford to manage the new site which will be Wordpress based. The webmaster is responsible for website management and support and receives a monthly honorarium. Any member with website management experience is invited to contact the VBA secretary for further information.

VBA Secretary: Kim Frazer -
secretary@vba.asn.au or 0409 416 128

FOR STARTERS

It's the New Year, and you are hoping for some decent cards for once. It's amazing how often all of North, South, East and West have poor hands, all session. It doesn't make mathematical sense, but there you go.

Here you pick up about your personal average:

♠ 7532 ♥ 84 ♦ A763 ♣ K93

No one is vulnerable, the dealer is on your left, and the auction commences:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	D'ble	2♥	?

Partner's double is for takeout, but because there has been a bid by RHO, you no longer have the obligation to bid something.

So should you pass?

There's a mode of thinking required when partner makes a takeout double. You should regard partner as having opened the bidding and showed all three suits other than the suit bid by the opponent.

This means that when you have four cards in one of those suits, and at least 6 HCP, you should at least consider "supporting" partner in that suit by bidding it yourself. This is particularly true of a 4-card *major* suit, because takeout doubles usually emphasise having 4 cards in any unbid major.

In this example, you should bid 2♠, despite the lousy spades. Think of it as "supporting partner's spades". Usually partner will have four of them, and you have uncovered a nice 8-card fit. Occasionally he will only deliver three spades, in which case you have bid yourself to a challenging contract ... but who knows, perhaps your bid will push the opponents to 3♥.

Today, your 2♠ bid buys the contract:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	D'ble	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What have you done?

LHO leads ♥K, and you see:

♥K led

N
S

♠ AK86
♥ J6
♦ 1084
♣ AJ105

♠ 7532
♥ 84
♦ A763
♣ K93

Well bid!

LHO continues with the ♥Q, then switches to the ♠Q. You win that, and having learned in the cradle to draw trumps, you play another top trump: RHO plays the ♠9 and LHO the ♠J.

What's the trump situation, and what do you do now?

There is a single winning trump out against you, the 10. In such situations, there is little point playing a third round, as the 10 has to win sometime, and you don't particularly want to have to play two trumps to their one.

What is the situation here? You have lost two hearts, and must lose a trump. There are two diamond losers, that's 5 in total. It seems you have to avoid losing a club trick to make this contract.

It boils down to divining who has the ♣Q, in which case you can finesse against it.

Well, who has that ♣Q? All things being equal, you would play LHO for that card, because he opened the bidding, and therefore has more of the outstanding HCP. That makes him more likely to hold the ♣Q than his partner.

Any other ideas?

You may not have to make this guess, instead forcing the opponents to finesse the suit for you. Play the ♦A and then another diamond. The opponents may be able to win that trick, and another diamond, and the

♠10, but then might be stuck. If whoever has the lead can play a fourth round of diamonds, then you will have to win that and play the clubs to advantage (however you will have received more information in the process about how the opposing cards lie).

If however the diamonds divide 3-3, you've got 'em. If they play a heart, you discard a losing club from your hand and trump in dummy. Then, after the ace and king of clubs, you are left with a winning diamond and a winning trump.

And if they play a club, they guess the suit for you. You play low from the next hand, and wherever the ♣Q was, it will be trapped.

The full deal:

♠ AK86		♠ 94
♥ J6		♥ 10975
♦ 1084		♦ KJ9
♣ AJ105		♣ Q742
♠ QJ10	N	
♥ AKQ32	W E	
♦ Q52	S	
♣ 86		
	♠ 7532	
	♥ 84	
	♦ A763	
	♣ K93	

Points to remember:

- After partner's takeout double, think of your bid of a new suit as supporting partner. Therefore, you only need 4 cards to bid a suit. Of course if RHO has passed the double, you are forced into such action willy-nilly.
- If there is one outstanding trump, and it is a winner, there is usually no point to "drawing" it.
- Before taking a finesse, check out whether you can simply lose a trick or two to the opponents and force them to play the finesse for you. It's an endplay, and this resource is available more often than one might think.

Oh, and we haven't finished with this deal.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Rubbish after 2NT

Nil vulnerable, matchpoint duplicate

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2NT	Pass	?

Partner opens 2NT, showing a balanced 20-22 HCP hand. The Yin and the Yang means that you probably have a rubbish hand in response. So let's look at some of them.

One of the limitations of 2NT opening bids is that there is no room for you to *invite* game: you either have to settle for a partscore, or bid to a game. What methods are available?

First, it's essential to play 3♣ as some sort of Stayman (either simple Stayman or the sexier Puppet Stayman) to seek out a 4-4 major suit fit. Second, if you are up to it, play transfer bids: 3♦ to show 5+ hearts and 3♥ to show 5+ spades. This will get the 2NTER as declarer in your major suit, making life *much* harder for the defenders.

We will examine some other responses next month.

So will it be a partscore or a game? If you have 5+ HCP, you should commit to a game contract somewhere, because your combined HCP range is at least 25-27. But with fewer than 5 HCP, tread warily. Very strong hands opposite very weak hands can be difficult to play, because declarer is stuck with always leading out of the strong hand.

All right, let's practise:

- (a) ♠ Q86 ♥ J3 ♦ J852 ♣ 8643
- (b) ♠ 86 ♥ 532 ♦ 852 ♣ A10943
- (c) ♠ 6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q852 ♣ 10876432
- (d) ♠ 986 ♥ J10532 ♦ 852 ♣ 43
- (e) ♠ K9863 ♥ J10532 ♦ 2 ♣ 43
- (f) ♠ - ♥ J863 ♦ 643 ♣ Q108532

Not too many points in these hands, but decisions nevertheless. Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2NT	Pass	?

(a) ♠ Q86 ♥ J3 ♦ J852 ♣ 8643

Pass. This scattered 4-count has nothing to recommend it. One of the honour cards may be of some use, but surely not all three. It might just be enough to allow partner to scramble 8 tricks in 2NT.

(b) ♠ 86 ♥ 532 ♦ 852 ♣ A10943

3NT. Conversely this 4-count has potential. Most of the time, partner will have at least 3 clubs, in which case the club suit can be developed for several winners, making 3NT a heavy favourite. A long suit headed by a top honour is invaluable in this situation.

(c) ♠ 6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q852 ♣ 10876432

5♣. What you'd really like to do is play in a club partscore. But no can do. It's unlikely to score well in notrumps (although if your clubs come in, it could make a stupendous number of tricks), but 5♣ has fair chances. When holding a very weak hand with a long weak suit, it usually plays best in that suit, where you can at least take some trump tricks.

(d) ♠ 986 ♥ J10532 ♦ 852 ♣ 43

3♦. Speaking of which, this hand belongs in hearts. In notrumps it can contribute nothing unless there is a major miracle in hearts. But in 3♥, you can provide a couple of winners. So transfer partner to 3♥ and let him play it there.

(e) ♠ K9863 ♥ J10532 ♦ 2 ♣ 43

3♥. This is quite a good hand, and is worth playing in game in a major. Transfer to 3S, then bid 4♥, offering partner the choice between 4♥ and 4♠.

(f) ♠ - ♥ J863 ♦ 643 ♣ Q108532

3♣. Use Stayman in the hope that partner bids 3♥ (which you raise to 4♥). If not, then give 5♣ a whirl (a similar argument to hand c). No guarantees with this one, but are there ever?

STATE EVENT RESULTS**Victorian Individual**

- 1 Ralph Berlinski
- 2 George Lovrecz
- 3 Nicole McManamny

CONGRESS RESULTS**Dendy Park Summer Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 P. Hollands – C. Leach
- 2 B. A'Beckett – S. Ozenir
- 3 R. Gallus – S. Weisz

VBA Summer Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 P. Jain – G. Ridgway
- 2 C. Arul – R. Ellery
- 3 J. Yang – M. Gurfinkiel

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Willcox, K. Chan, K. Muntz, L. Gold
- 2 J. Thompson, B. Thompson, J. Thompson, D. Thompson
- 3 C. Ding, M. Zhang, D. Wei, V. Zhang

Yarra Valley Mini-Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 S. Read – M. Darling
- 2 M. Clarke – D. Clarke
- 3 J. Howard – A. Hegedus

Gardenvale Summer Congress*Carole & Jessel Rothfield Swiss Pairs*

- 1 L. Ginnan – E. Samuel
- 2 K. Muntz – T. Kay
- 3 A. St Clair – K. Frazer

Paul Lavings IMP Pairs

- 1 S. Ozenir – M. Yuill
- 2 T. Ranasinghe – D. Samuels
- 3 B. Dembo – A. Meydan

Gardenvale Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Phillips – G. Peston
- 2 S. Sharp – D. Sharp
- 3 P. Hollands – C. Leach

Gardenvale Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Muntz, L. Gold, N. Ewart, D. Beckett
- 2 M. Yuill, D. Newland, S. Hinge, J. Collins
- 3 J. Pike, A. Gooding, S. Wanz, S. Mould

Queen’s Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 23 (December 3)

3 S. Begg – M. Adams (Yarra Valley)

Event 24 (December 18)

2 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)

Play bridge for a great cause?

The James Macready-Bryan Foundation raises funds to help improve the lives and living conditions of young people with an acquired brain injury, and all profits from the event will be sent to the Foundation.

Waverley Bridge Club will run its annual JMB Charity event on Saturday March 4th. Visit waverleybridgeclub.com.au to enter.

**SUMMER FESTIVAL – CANBERRA
VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLL**



Winners, Super Novice Teams:

Penny Robertson, Fiona Ferwerda, Julie More, Janice Meldrum. Penny and Fiona also won the Super Novice Pairs championship.



2nd Place, Novice Swiss Pairs:
James Thomas & Lisa Yoffa



Winners, Chris Diment Pairs:
Helen Horwitz & Justin Howard



Winners, National Women’s Teams:
Paula McLeish, Judy Osie, Diana Smart, Rena Kaplan, Nevena Djurovic, Pauline Evans



Winners, National Seniors Teams:
Terry Brown, Peter Buchen, Bruce Neill, Bill Haughie, Avinash Kanetkar, Simon Hinge

Victorian Women’s and Seniors Team Selection

Qualifying 1 – a three week IMP event on Mondays 13th, 27th February and 6th March

FOR EXPERTS

Do you consider yourself an expert player? Then here's a test for you. If you read For Starters, and are actually an expert player, you will have thought to yourself: you misplayed that hand. If you didn't think that, here's a second chance:

♠ AK86
♥ J6
♦ 1084
♣ AJ105

♥K led

N
S

♠ 7532
♥ 84
♦ A763
♣ K93

LHO cashes ♥K and ♥Q, and switches to the ♠Q. Please find the expert play.

An experienced player will immediately see the possibility of requiring the defenders to open up clubs. What is harder to see is that there are two suits that can be used to execute the end-play: diamonds or spades.

The correct play is to duck a diamond at once. The defenders will win and play a diamond or a spade. Let's say it's a spade. Win, play the ♦A and now exit with your third trump (the play that Starters are advised against, deliberately playing a trump to the one outstanding winner against you).

If the diamonds are 3-3, the end-play works fine. The defenders can take their diamond, but are then stuck. But if the full deal is:

♠ AK86
♥ J6
♦ 1084
♣ AJ105

♠ QJ10
♥ AKQ32
♦ Q2
♣ 862

N
W E
S

♠ 94
♥ 10975
♦ KJ95
♣ Q74

♠ 7532
♥ 84
♦ A763
♣ K93

West wins the third spade, but has no diamond to play. He has no winning option. The same would apply if East wins the third spade, but has no more diamonds.

BEGINNERS LESSONS

If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in taking up the game, here are two worthwhile options to get them started:

Gardenvale Bridge Club

Commencing Wednesday February 8th, 1:00 pm; each lesson repeated on Thursday at 7:30 pm. Teacher: Jeff Fust.

See: www.gvbridge.com.au for more details.

Waverley Bridge Club

Commencing Wednesday March 15th, 7:30 pm; each lesson repeated on Thursday at 1:45 pm. Teacher: Mary Elson.

See: www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au for more details.

**2016 Australian Youth Awards
Helman-Klinger Achievement Award:
Jamie Thompson**

This award, worth \$400 annually and supplemented with a further \$200 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is presented each year to the Australian Youth Bridge Player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving.

A regular on the Australian Under-25 Team for three straight years, whilst still eligible to play Under-20s, in 2016 Jamie played every single national teams event together with the Open Team Play-Offs. Jamie has also taken over the running of the Victorian kids' night at Waverley Bridge Club and plays regularly with up-and-coming under 16s. He has also anchored inexperienced Victorian Youth teams at the ANC.

FOR BIDDERS

How do you and your favourite partner play this auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	Pass	3♥

If 3♥ shows 10-12 total points and heart support, then what about *this* auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	D'ble	3♥

Let's take a look at East's hand from For Starters:

♠ 94 ♥ 10975 ♦ KJ9 ♣ Q742

RHO doubles your partner's 1♥ opening.

The 2♥ bid actually made represents the correct choice if RHO had passed 1♥. But after the double, it let LHO in with an easy 2♠ bid.

A superior approach recognises that an important part of the game is disrupting your opponents' bidding. Suppose you were allowed to bid 3♥ over the double, showing a weak hand with 4-card heart support (by weak, I mean about 3-7 HCP). The idea is to make life difficult for LHO.

Now take another look at your LHO's hand:

♠ 7532 ♥ 84 ♦ A763 ♣ K93

What would you do after that 3♥ bid? The nice 2♠ bid has been obliterated. You have only losing options: you could bid 3♠ and go down, or you could pass 3♥, and defeat it just one trick, for an inferior score compared to making 2♠.

One could argue that responder could have bid 2♥, as he did, then 3♥ over the opponents' inevitable 2♠. But that doesn't work so well. The opponents have said their piece, and will leave you to go down in 3♥. But if you bid 3♥ immediately, there is a fair chance that the opponents will compete with 3♠, to their regret.

Next objection: what is responder meant to do with 10-12 total points and heart support. Answer: bid 2NT. This convention is known

under several names, two being Jordan and Truscott. After a takeout double of a 1-major opening, 2NT shows a limit raise.

Final objection: what is responder meant to do with 10-12 HCP and no heart support ... I normally bid 2NT with that, but you've taken that bid away. Answer: redouble. This shows 10+ HCP and leaves open the possibility of penalising the opponents.

In summary:

After RHO's pass:

Weak support:	raise to 2 level
Limit raise:	raise to 3 level
Invite in NT:	2NT

After RHO's double:

Weak 3-card support:	raise to 2 level
Weak 4-card support:	raise to 3-level
Limit raise:	2NT
Invite in NT:	Redouble

To be continued ...

ABF Travel Insurance

The **2017/2018 travel insurance application is now available online** at www.tbib.com.au/abf/. Apply, complete pre-existing medical condition screening and purchase your policy with commencement 1st March 2017.

Benefit from our industry experience with a comprehensive policy to suit your needs.

**One Policy
One Premium
Multiple Trips
Peace of Mind**

If you have any questions or need assistance with your application please contact TBIB on 07 3252 5254 between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, and one of our Insurance Brokers will be happy to assist.

T B I B

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Steve Briggs	Deniliquin
Ricky Buller	Yarrowonga
Beryl Campbell	Waverley
Tony Georgeson	Beaumaris
Jo Lewis	Whittlesea
Aidan Moore	Bendigo
Linda Peacock	Lakes Entrance
Jocelyn Pilmore	Traralgon
Regina Pocock	Bendigo
Derek Poulton	Shepparton
Luba Puterman	Caulfield Park
Zlata Radovic	Moonee Valley
Margaret Webster	Bairnsdale
Kathleen Wenczel	Berwick

*State

Rosanne Butler	Moonee Valley
Joanne Crockford	Melbourne
Moya Crowley	Phillip Island
John Higgins	Mornington
Craig Irwin	VBA
Martin Murphy	Eastern
Mark Stacey	Wodonga
Fay Wilson	Bendigo
Robert Ziffer	Sale

National

Robert Begg	Melbourne
Katalin Bish	Dendy Park
Shirley Cope	Moonee Valley
William Rossiter-Nuttall	Rye Beach
Matti Shub	VBA
David Wei	Moonee Valley

*National

June Clarke	Traralgon
Chen Ding	VBA
Heather Henley	Lakes Entrance
Christine Paine	Eastern
Roger Phillips	Yarra Valley
Mieke van Weel	Rye Beach

**National

Ian Bram	Dendy Park
Glenda Edge	Northern
Coral Pheasant	Yarrowonga
Teresa Pietrzak	Moonee Valley
Janet Reynolds	Melbourne
Ian Williams	Moonee Valley

Life

Sally Macmillan	Frankston
Yvonne Minton	Frankston
Jerry Worboys	Mornington

Bronze Life

Faye Symons	Bendigo
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Silver Life

Helen McAdam	Traralgon
Victor Zhang	Moonee Valley

Gold Life

Judith Apfelbaum	Mornington
Jean Barbour	Phillip Island
Irene Hamilton	Dendy Park
Lorraine Robinson	Sale
Bert Romeijn	Berwick

Grand

Alex Czapnik	Waverley
Gabor Fleiszig	Theodor Herzl

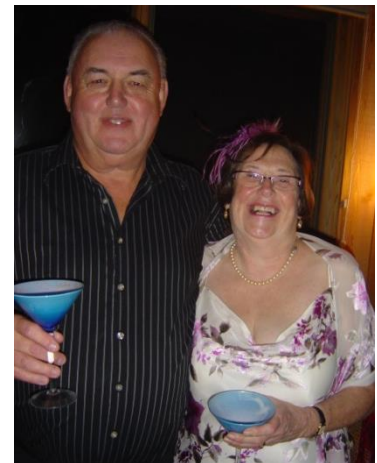
Silver Grand

Michael Gurfinkiel	VBA
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NOT JUST A BRIDGE PLAYER ...

VBA secretary Kim Frazer was watching an old episode of the very popular Letters and Numbers when she recognised one of the contestants Brian Morgan (pictured). We got in touch with Brian who advised us.....

The three episodes shown recently were originally broadcast in February 2011. My daughter assures me I have lost weight since then, and improved my teeth!



It was the first time I have ever been on a game show and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Five episodes were recorded in one day, and it was very hard to maintain concentration (sound like a bridge congress?). Eventually I lost on a very simple numbers problem when I tried to find a complicated solution when the basic was obvious (1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠, for example).

It was disappointing the series was discontinued, but I was very happy with my McQuarrie dictionary, suitably autographed.

Cheers
Brian