

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2017

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



The Victorian Simultaneous Pairs is coming up at the end of the month and we're rejigging the format a little. This year you play entirely in your own club but you still compare your scores with those across the whole state; you can play one, two or all three weeks; and we have prizes every week AND overall.

I always find it really interesting to see very different results from my club's when I look 'across the field'. Sometimes local preferences have big effects, like when opening a weak 1NT gets 3NT played from the right (or wrong) side, so what looks like a boring 3NT making in your club turns out to be a galactic top (or bottom).

That sort of thing reminds me of why bridge is such a rich and beautiful game. There's so much scope for different ideas and so much opportunity to try them out.

Every week, I'll be prevailing on one of my expert friends to write up a few hands. Join in the fun and see if you can beat the field – and the expert analysts!



VICTORIAN DELEGATE TO THE ABF

The VBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher Leach as Victorian delegate to the ABF for a two-year term commencing at the AGM on April 22-23. Christopher has extensive experience as a board and committee member



of various organisations, and is passionate about bridge, having taken up the game later in life. As Chair of the VBA's Marketing and Education committee, Christopher is particularly keen to work on progressing bridge education for mature-age adults who take up the game. Christopher is well-known around the congress circuit in Victoria, and is also a member of the VBA Council.

The VBA thanks the out-going delegate, Mr Brian Morgan for his contribution during his four-year term. During his time as Victorian delegate to the ABF, Brian was a member of the ABF Marketing Committee which he chaired, and he was a keen advocate for more events and support for restricted events at the national level.

*** VBA CALENDAR CHANGE ***

Due to a scheduling error over the period that encompasses Passover the Board-A-Match Teams will now be held on Monday April 3 and Wednesday April 5.

Consequently, the Altman Swiss Pairs will now commence on Wednesday April 12 and run uninterrupted for four weeks (April 12, 19, 26, May 3).

FOR STARTERS

Playing Standard American with your regular partner, you deal and open 1NT with:

♠ K62 ♥ Q5 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ Q853

Partner responds 2♦, a transfer bid, which you duly alert. RHO passes, and it's your call.

I'm sorry if you've been insulted by this question, but there are players who believe that you now have the license to say if you like or dislike hearts: they would bid 2NT here to deny heart support.

You are not authorised to do this. Partner could easily have a very weak hand with a long string of hearts, and be planning to have you declare 2♥. So you *must* bid 2♥ here, whatever your hand, to allow for that eventuality.

When you open 1NT, you transfer captaincy of the auction to your partner, who knows the nature of your hand within tight constraints. You must do as you're told, until such time that partner makes a bid that consults you further.

The auction continues:

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

What is partner showing, and how should you react?

2NT is a natural call, inviting game, so yes, you have been "let back" into the auction and consulted for your opinion. Partner has exactly 5 hearts, and is asking you to name a final contract. It could be 3♥ or 4♥, if you have heart support, or 2NT (via a pass here) or 3NT without heart support.

You have only two hearts, so plan to play in notrumps. Now, is your hand a minimum or maximum? That depends on the precise HCP range of your 1NT opening. If 16-18, you are definitely minimum and should pass. If 15-17, you are mid-range and could go either

way. (It is not within the scope of this article to enter the religious war of 15-17 versus 16-18 1NT ranges.)

Let's say you decide to pass, and so play 2NT. The lead is the ♠J, and you see:

♠ J led	♠ A5
	♥ KJ982
	♦ 654
	♣ 742
	N
	S
	♠ K62
	♥ Q5
	♦ AKQ2
	♣ Q853

How do you play it?

Start by counting your tricks: two top spades and three top diamonds equals 5. Hearts is the suit that will deliver extra tricks, so this is the suit you will attack.

There are issues with entries to dummy's hearts: the ♠A is a vital link, which you need to retain. You must win your first spade trick with the ♠K, which means you cannot hold up this suit.

On winning ♠K, you lead ♥Q (playing the honour from the hand that is short in the suit). East wins this with ♥A, and plays ♠Q, won perforce with dummy's ♠A.

All follow to the ♥K, but on the ♥J, West throws a diamond, alas. East still has the ♥10.

Now what?

Playing another heart to set up dummy's last heart won't help: there is no further entry to dummy. The best you can do is take your top diamonds, and hope that the six outstanding diamonds divide 3-3. All follow to the first two rounds, but West discards a club on the third round.

Is there any other possible 8th trick?

Well, yes. That ♦2 is a winner, so a good idea would be to play it. You did notice, did you not, that West had previously discarded a diamond on the third round of hearts?

The full deal:

♠ A5			
♥ KJ982			
♦ 654			
♣ 742			
♠ J10974	N	♠ Q83	
♥ 64	W	♥ A1073	
♦ 983	E	♦ J107	
♣ AJ9	S	♣ K106	
		♠ K62	
		♥ Q5	
		♦ AKQ2	
		♣ Q853	

Points to remember:

- When partner transfers, bid the suit he has transferred to, more or less without looking further at your hand.

There is one possible exception to this rule, if you have a super-duper hand with *four-card* support for partner's suit. Then you are allowed to show your delight by jumping into that suit (a 3♥ bid in this auction): this is called a super-accept.

- Hold-up plays in notrumps are an important tool. Normally with Ax opposite Kxx in the opponents' led suit, you would let them take the first trick, winning the second round. Then if one opponent has only a doubleton in the suit, and gains the lead, he won't have any left to play.

However, hold-up plays cannot be allowed to get in the way of maintaining your own communications, which was the case here.

- More than anything, bridge is a game of concentration. Recalling West's diamond discard, and realising that your last diamond is a winner requires nothing more than your attention. Don't expect to win if you're not prepared to work.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

They overcall at the 2-level

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	2♣	?

First things first. If you have support (at least 3 cards) for partner's hearts, show it, via the scheme discussed in last month's article *For Bidders*. You don't recall it? Well, past VBA Bulletins are available at <http://vba.asn.au/vba2Col.php?appFnc=BUL&mnuArr=1>. (Or click on Services, then VBA Bulletin.)

With 5+ spades and 10+ HCP, bid 2♠. With a weaker spade hand, or only 4 spades, consider a negative double instead, which basically shows 4+ spades and 6-9 HCP, or exactly 4 spades and 10+ HCP.

2♦ is a natural forcing bid, promising 10+ HCP and at least 4 diamonds.

Essentially, bidding new suits at the 2-level or higher requires at least 10 HCP.

2NT shows 10-12 HCP and must include a club stopper. 3NT is the same, just more points.

If you have a hand that doesn't fall into any of these categories, then perhaps you should pull your head in and pass. After all, partner is still there for you.

Ready to practise?

- (a) ♠ 1052 ♥ Q743 ♦ J8542 ♣ 3
- (b) ♠ AJ42 ♥ Q43 ♦ K1052 ♣ 43
- (c) ♠ AK42 ♥ 43 ♦ AQ102 ♣ 843
- (d) ♠ 542 ♥ 43 ♦ AJ102 ♣ K843
- (e) ♠ 542 ♥ Q3 ♦ AJ102 ♣ AQ43
- (f) ♠ Q42 ♥ 732 ♦ Q1052 ♣ QJ3

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	2♣	?

(a) ♠ 1052 ♥ Q743 ♦ J8542 ♣ 3

3♥. A pre-emptive jump raise, showing a rather weak hand but with 4-card heart support. The idea is to both describe your hand to partner, and make it hard for your opponents to explore *their* best contract. What do you do with a hand that wants to invite game in hearts? Well ...

(b) ♠ AJ42 ♥ Q43 ♦ K1052 ♣ 43

3♣. A cue-bid raise. Obviously, 3♣ cannot be a natural bid: it should be used to show at least invitational values with support for partner's suit. Some might want to play this cue-bid as "asking for a stopper", but with such a hand, you can simply bid your suit, and partner is quite likely to bid notrumps next with a stopper in clubs, and no fit.

(c) ♠ AK42 ♥ 43 ♦ AQ102 ♣ 843

D'ble. Shows spades. Partner's response to this bid will guide you to whichever game contract is best (which might be anywhere except clubs).

(d) ♠ 542 ♥ 43 ♦ AJ102 ♣ K843

Pass. With 8 HCP, you would have been obliged to respond to partner's opening bid, but it is not required here, as partner gets another chance. So let's see what happens. It is entirely possible that your best spot is to simply defend 2♣ passed out.

(e) ♠ 542 ♥ Q3 ♦ AJ102 ♣ AQ43

2♦. There's nothing wrong with bidding a 4-card diamond suit: after all you could have a slam in the suit. Whilst 3NT is a likely resting place, why not explore other possibilities first?

(f) ♠ Q42 ♥ 732 ♦ Q1052 ♣ QJ3

Pass. 2♥ could not be criticized, but no-one is stopping you from deciding that your hand is pure rubbish, and partner should not be encouraged in any way.

SUMMER FESTIVAL – CANBERRA VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLL

The following fine result was accidentally omitted from the February bulletin:



Winners, Non-Life Mates Teams:
(l-r) Bruce Minchinton, Michael Goh,
John Green Gordon Coss

Bruce and Michael are from Nagambie Bridge Club, one of Victoria's newest, about which more next month.

STATE RESULTS

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 R. van Riel, D. Harley, D. Smart, D. Morgan
- 2 E. Caplan, J. Thompson, B. Thompson, W. Jacobs
- 3 C. Leach, E. Samuel, P. Hollands, M. Henbest

CONGRESS RESULTS

Rye Beach Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Yang – M. Gurfinkiel
- 2 M. Henbest – C. Leach
- 3 F. Vearing – J. Heywood

Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, M. Zhang, V. Zhang
- 2 A. Maluish, A. Mill, M. Darling, S. Read
- 3 S. White, R. Berlinski, E. Linton, P. Corrigan

Theodor Herzl Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 M. Tiplady – C. Fernando
- 2 C. Ding – D. Nie
- 3 R. Gallus – S. Weisz

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 5 (March 4)*

- 2 B. Hyett – E. Ramage (Bendigo)
- 3 A. Dezilva – V. Ratnayake (Bendigo)

Event 6 (March 17)

- 1 E. Ramshaw – A. Smith (Ballarat)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS**Frankston Congress**

Sunday 9th April, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue St Francis Xavier Centre
cnr Baxter & Davey Streets
Frankston

Contact: Yvonne Minton, 9787 1208

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Gardenvale Congress

Friday 14th April, 1 pm: Butler Pairs
Saturday 15th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 16th April, 10 am: Swiss Teams
Monday 17th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue 20 Spink St
Brighton

Contact: Jeff Fust, 9530 6622

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Whittlesea Congress

Sunday 23rd April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue Whittlesea Community Activity Centre
57-61 Laurel St
Whittlesea (Melway 246 H9)

Contact: Lyndall Shaw, 0428 601 111

Enter: <http://www.whittlesea.bridgeaustralia.org>

VBA ANZAC Day Swiss Pairs

Tuesday 25th April, 10:am: Swiss Pairs

Venue 131 Poath Rd
Murrumbena

Contact: Kitty Muntz. 0409 563 644

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

Bayside Autumn Congress

Saturday 6th May, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 7th May, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Beaumaris Bowls Club
Martin St
Beaumaris

Contact: Jan Clyne, 0418 556 382

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Jocelyn Russell	Waverley
Marion Taylor	Traralgon
George Vermont	Waverley
Shirley Walters	Ballarat

***State**

Hilary Keefe	Moonee Valley
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***National**

Rob Graham	Traralgon
Robin Hecker	Traralgon
Helen Tyler	Bairnsdale

****National**

June Clarke	Traralgon
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Life

Alkmini Segal	VBA
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Bronze Life

Anne Gooding	Waverley
Anne Laughlin	Waverley

Silver Life

Helen Lovegrove	Warrnambool
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Overheard at a recent duplicate:

"What signals do you play? Do you give attitude?"

"No, we try to be nice to each other!"

**VALE LILLI ALLGOOD
1929 - 2017**



Lilli Allgood (nee Weigert) migrated to Melbourne from Johannesburg with her parents sometime in the forties. She was the only child of a music conductor/engineer father and her pianist mother.

As a result one might describe her as a gifted child so it is not surprising that she learned to play the piano, violin, bridge and chess at an early age and excelled in all of them. Throughout her life she used her many talents and also shared them with others.

Lilli played piano at concert level but loved duet performance above all. Through this she maintained a wide participation in the community by performing at nursing homes and concerts in both solo and duet form. I also believe she is listed as an Australian chess champion and it was through chess she met her beloved late husband Ray. They were such a devoted couple.

Her name is listed on the Honour Board at the VBA as Victorian Individual Champion for 1987 and together with Nicole McManamny she holds the highest ever total of green points in Victoria, and one of the highest nationwide.

The Allgoods became members of the VBA in its very early days and continued to enjoy many years of bridge. Her penchant for teaching and helping others is evident via the many people who have acknowledged help from her. Consequently, she is fondly remembered for being generous spirited and for her zealous efforts in encouraging so many with bridge and music.

After Ray died, Lilli became part of a household with Anton Stavik, Patrick Zhang, Jerry Zhang and later on, Winfred Zhang. There she continued to live happily for many years.

I was fortunate to be one of her regular bridge partners for about 15 years but Lilli was partnered by Peter Havlicek for even longer. So I am left with fond memories but the strongest one is my admiration for the brave, cheerful and uncomplaining way she handled her illness in its latter stages.

She will now be remembered by her legacy to the VBA and by a generous donation from her estate which will be used to create the "Allgood Award" to foster duplicate players of the future in the game she loved so much.

... Paulina Baker

**VALE GRANT KILVINGTON
1948 - 2017**



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Grant Kilvington on 22nd March, following a brave fight against cancer.

Grant had been a long time player and supporter of bridge and the VBA. He played bridge at the highest levels and represented Victoria on several occasions. He won the Australian Youth Teams in 1976 and 1977. He was a member of the Victorian Open Team at the ANC for 6 of the 7 years between 1988 and 1994 and won the Silver medal in 4 of those years.

In 2004 and 2005 Grant was in the Victorian Seniors Representative Team (playing with Charlie Snashall in both years) and won the Gold Medal in 1994.

Grant was a great supporter of youth bridge and in 2013 was the non-playing captain of the Australian Youth team at the Asia-Pacific Youth Teams Championship where he captained them to a gold medal. He also captained the Victorian Youth Team at the ANC on a number of occasions and steered them to victory in 2011, 2013, and 2014.

Grant was a bon vivant and raconteur who always had a new joke and was always a big part of the social scene at bridge events. His wit, intelligence, and good nature will be sorely missed by the bridge community throughout Australia.

Our thoughts are with his family, in particular his three children Emily, Julia and Trevor.

... Neil Ewart

2017 Victorian Simultaneous Pairs

to be held over 3 club sessions advertised by your club

Weeks starting: 24 April, 1 May, 8 May

The Simultaneous Pairs is an exciting red-point event held in your club.

Your scores will be compared to players across the state for 3 sessions over 3 successive weeks.

See your club organizer for details of which weekly session will be used to host the event.

Cost \$1 per player per session on top of your club's usual table fees.

Main prize: Entry to VCC Pairs event of your choice

Phone enquiries: Michael Phillips. M: 0466 885 598

Club Registration requested by 17 April 2017 at

http://nationwidepairs.com.au/vic_simultaneous_pairs.html

BLACK MAGIC
Bill Jacobs

♠ 54
♥ 532
♦ AK9764
♣ AK
♠ 2
♥ 864
♦ Q5
♣ 9765432

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead your spade, declarer tops partner's ♠10 with the ♠A and leads the ace and king of hearts. Partner follows to the first heart with the ♥9.

Which heart do you leave remaining in your hand?

Would this be a Black Magic deal were it not essential to leave yourself with precisely the ♥6? It is the Goldilocks card, neither too high nor too low.

♠ 54
♥ 532
♦ AK9764
♣ AK
♠ 2
♥ 864
♦ Q5
♣ 9765432

N
W E
S

♠ KQJ106
♥ 9
♦ J1082
♣ QJ8

♠ A9763
♥ AKQJ107
♦ 3
♣ 10

If you leave the ♥4 remaining, declarer gives up a spade and ruffs a third spade with the ♥5. The remaining two spades are discarded on the minor suit kings.

If you leave the ♥8 remaining, declarer can, and should, and will, play as follows: diamond to the ace, diamond ruffed high, club to the ace, diamond ruffed high, and now the killer blow: the ♥7 to your ♥8. You are left with nothing but clubs, and must

give dummy access to the established diamonds.

Leaving yourself with the ♥6 thwarts both these plans.

Bridge at the ANC
Brisbane, 1937

From the Brisbane Telegraph:

Each day about 12:30 pm, the 32 congregate on the battlefield which is suitably enclosed with Union Jacks, and at the given signal seat themselves at the prepared tables and commence play. Four large black and white posters at intervals down the room say "Silence, Silence, Silence, Silence". The result is that we are silent.

Moreover, another insistent notice says, "Children must not climb on windows or throw anything out of same". This seems an unnecessary precaution. In an atmosphere such as this so tense that a cough sounds like a clap of thunder, the idea of children sporting about the window sills or heaving apples into the street below is too ridiculous for serious consideration.

Each table is of course supervised by a scorer – usually a woman, who before she begins her duties dons an apron ... a protection against the carbon sheets with which each scoring book is equipped.

In addition to the scorer there is an official disputes committee of two, appointed to see that play is scrupulously fair and above board.

Yesterday, it was rumoured that South Australia had lunched on onions, and this was considered by some might have a demoralising effect upon their opponents from Victoria. However when it was established that Victoria had lunched on sardines, it was agreed not to bring a protest before the committees and the two teams started all square ...

From Cathy Chua's History of Australian Bridge.