

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2017

Editor: Bill Jacobs



2017 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



THURSDAY 8TH JUNE – MONDAY 12TH JUNE 2017

Bayview Eden Hotel: 6 Queens Road, Melbourne Victoria

SWISS PAIRS EVENTS - 10.30AM START

WOMENS, SENIORS, OPEN, RESTRICTED, AND <200 MP

8TH - 9TH JUNE

SWISS TEAMS - 10AM START

(OPEN, MIXED, WOMEN, SENIOR, RESTRICTED, LIFE MASTER)

10TH – 12TH JUNE

COME AND JOIN US. STAY WHERE YOU PLAY.
PRESENTATIONS AND HOSPITALITY ON FRIDAY AND MONDAY.

For more details visit the website at www.abfevents.com.au/events/vcc/2017

Victoria's oldest and most prestigious event, the Victor Champion Cup, returns to the popular Bayview Eden for 2017 with a few small changes to the format. These include new category prizes in the teams for the Best Senior Team and Best Life Masters (each team member must have under 1000 masterpoints) Team. We hope these new events will provide more opportunities for players to win a prize.

Due to a consistently low entries for the past few years in the restricted teams event (the Charlie Snashall Trophy), we have merged this into the main field, however there will continue to be separate medallions for this event.

One thing that has not changed is the Restricted Pairs Event which is open to players with under 300 masterpoints. A typographical error on the website, which has now been fixed, was causing some confusion for players, and we want to reassure all our restricted players that there is no change to the conditions of entry for the Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs event for 2017. If you have under 300 masterpoints, you are eligible. Additionally, we are once again offering a pairs event for players with under 200 masterpoints combined. See the entry form or contact the convenor vcc@abf.com.au with any questions or if you need help finding a partner or team-mates.

With Gold Points on offer, hospitality at the end of play on both Friday and Monday, and lots of great bridge over 5 days, why not give it a go this year? We hope to see you there!

Kim Frazer & Neil Ewart



FOR STARTERS

You pick up:

♠ 763 ♥ KQ5 ♦ KQ106 ♣ Q42

Everyone is vulnerable, partner is the dealer, and the auction proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♠	?

Do you make a bid here?

I know people (lots of them, actually) who would double 1♠. I have an opening hand, partner!

They are bad people. Well, bad bridge players. Well, *misguided* bridge players, shall we say. A takeout double here should show opening strength, support (at least 3 cards) for all the other suits, and shortage (at most 2 cards) in the opened suit.

Some might say: "two out of three ain't bad", and perhaps there are situations where you might double their opening bid with 4-3-3-3 shape. But there are four reasons why it's a bad idea here. Can you think of them?

1. We are vulnerable. This might not be an auction we want to win, if we are going down in hundreds.
2. Partner is a passed hand. The odds against us successfully competing for the contract are slim.
3. They have the spades. We can't outbid them without raising the level. The odds are stacked against us.
4. We tell the opponents where the points are. If they win the contract, then they will know more about our hands than they need to.

You pass, and the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

You ask about the 3♦ bid, and are told that it's a "Help-Suit Game Try". Opener has length in diamonds and is looking for some assistance in that suit. Apparently, responder can provide it.

So what do you lead?

You could lead one of your kings with a clear conscience, but the auction points to a better choice. If opener wants help in diamonds, and you have ♦KQ10x, just where is the help that responder apparently has? It is likely to be in the form of a shortage ... perhaps dummy can ruff diamonds.

In that case, you might be best off leading a trump, to cut down on dummy's ruffing power.

You lead an educated spade, and see:

4♠ by South	♠ K109 ♥ A7632 ♦ 43 ♣ J105									
♠ 762 ♥ KQ5 ♦ KQ106 ♣ Q42	<table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									

Declarer wins ♠9 in dummy, partner following with ♠4, declarer ♠3. Next comes ♦3, ♦8 from partner, ♦2 from declarer. And you?

It seems you might have been on the right track with that trump lead. Declarer is looking to ruff a diamond or two in dummy, and your side should clearly play a second trump here.

Partner is winning this trick with the ♦8, and will doubtless play a second trump, but an important premise of bridge is: *partners should be protected from themselves*.

Just in case the dolt across the table doesn't see it your way, overtake the ♦8 with your ♦10 and play a second trump yourself.

Declarer struggles for a while, but eventually goes down one, losing two diamonds and two clubs, the full deal being:

♠ K109			♠ 4
♥ A7632			♥ 10984
♦ 43			♦ J98
♣ J105			♣ AK986
♠ 762	N W E S	♠ 4	
♥ KQ5		♥ 10984	
♦ KQ106		♦ J98	
♣ Q42		♣ AK986	
	♠ AQJ853		
	♥ J		
	♦ A752		
	♣ 73		

So partner didn't have a second trump to play: it was a good thing you overtook his diamond!

The trump lead was a killer, restricting declarer to one ruff in dummy. Declarer took 6 spades, two red aces and a ruff, but it only added up to 9.

Points to remember:

- This deal is an example of one of the most important principles of bidding. You are dealt a balanced opening hand, and are all set to open one of a minor, when RHO opens the bidding in front of you.

The context has now switched by 90 degrees, and you are thrust into the role of the overcalling side. Unless you have the right shape for a takeout double, or 16+ HCP, you should now pass, as there's no descriptive bid available.

- Good trump leads come from two different sources. The first, and most frequent, is that every other suit is worse. The second is based on listening to the auction, and involves trying to limit the opponents' ruffing power.
- Great defenders protect their partners. Defence is so difficult, and the two defenders don't always see things the same way. If you know what the right defence is, then take charge.

In this example, partner couldn't make the winning play anyway, for lack of a second trump. (Yes he can lead low to your ♣Q, but good luck finding *that* play!)

TEST YOUR BIDDING

The Responsive Double

Nil vulnerable, matchpoint duplicate

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	1♥	2♦	?

In this auction, you are the Advancer, which is the name given to the partner of the Overcaller.

Let's start with how to support partner's hearts, which are at least 5 cards long. 2♥ speaks for itself: about 6-10 total points and at least 3 hearts. Having been recently acquainted with the art of preemptive jump raises (see February, March and April bulletins!), 3♥ should show a weakish hand with at least 4 hearts.

To make a serious try for game in hearts, holding around 11-14 total points, cue-bid 3♦.

Notrump bids are natural and non-forcing. New suit bids are natural and forcing, promising a good 5+ card suit.

That leaves a double. This is called a responsive double, which is a version of the takeout double, in this case promising length, at least 4 cards, in both the unbid suits: spades and clubs here. Responsive doubles often include some sort of tolerance for partner's suit, typically a doubleton, providing a relatively safe harbour should partner be short in both your suits.

What do you bid as Advancer, on each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ K104 ♥ 73 ♦ AQ97 ♣ KQ104
- (b) ♠ J43 ♥ J873 ♦ 7 ♣ A10432
- (c) ♠ KQ43 ♥ J73 ♦ A10 ♣ Q1043
- (d) ♠ KQ43 ♥ J7 ♦ A107 ♣ 10943
- (e) ♠ K104 ♥ 73 ♦ KQJ9 ♣ 10943
- (f) ♠ Q1043 ♥ 3 ♦ A107 ♣ KQ1043

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	1♥	2♦	?

(a) ♠ K104 ♥ 73 ♦ AQ97 ♣ KQ104

2NT. A natural invitation to game. Don't allow yourself to get sucked into bidding 3NT with this 14 HCP hand: remember, partner might have as few as 8 HCP for his one-level overall.

(b) ♠ J43 ♥ J873 ♦ 7 ♣ A10432

3♥. The classic pre-emptive jump raise, depriving your opponents of bidding space.

(c) ♠ KQ43 ♥ J73 ♦ A10 ♣ Q1043

3♦. The classic cue-bid raise, showing a serious interest in a 4♥ contract, should partner be at the top of his range.

(d) ♠ KQ43 ♥ J7 ♦ A107 ♣ 10943

Double. A responsive double, showing length in the unbid suits. If partner goes back to 2♥, that suggests a 6-card suit, but certainly doesn't promise one. He might, for example have 3523 shape, and have nothing better to bid.

(e) ♠ K104 ♥ 73 ♦ KQJ9 ♣ 10943

Pass. In the words of Elmer Fudd, it's time to keep vevy vevy quiet. Your objective here is to end up on defence, and take the opponents down. If the auction does continue in some way, and the opponents end up higher, then you might want to consider a penalty double, because there is a nasty diamond surprise for them.

(f) ♠ Q1043 ♥ 3 ♦ A107 ♣ KQ1043

Double. This isn't perfect, because there's no guarantee that you will find a fit even if you have one. But your hand is too good to merely pass: you may well have a good contract in a black suit. If partner retreats to 2♥, you should pass, rather than bidding 3♣, on the basis that with misfits, the best plan is usually to pass ASAP.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

NATIONAL RESULTS**Australian Swiss Pairs (Tasmania)**

3rd Kae French – Geoffrey Johnson

STATE RESULTS**Victorian Open Team Playoff**

- 1 Daoping Nie, Ming Zhang, Victor Zhang, Chen Ding, Gordon McRobert, Thilak Ranasinghe
- 2 Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold, Brad Wein, Robert Fruewirth, Laura Ginnan, Jamie Thompson

Congratulations to the winners who will form the Victorian Open Team for the ANC in Canberra.

CONGRESS RESULTS**Frankston Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 M. McManamny – C. Chakravorty
- 2 A. Maluish – A. Mill
- 3 J. Yang – M. Gurfinkiel

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Mill, M. Darling, A. Mill, A. Maluish
- 2 C. Shugg, W. Sieredzinski, L. Robinson, C. Fernando
- 3 S. Thorne, K. Thorne, C. Arul, A. Paul

Gardenvale Easter Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 2 S. Henbest – N. Ewart
- 3 M. Callander – P. Corrigan

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Heywood, J. Mill, F. Vearing, P. Hollands
- 2 J. Atkinson, J. Pettit, S. Murray-White, G. Whiting
- 3 A. StClair, D. Harley, S. Klofa, M. Gurfinkiel

Whittlesea Congress

- 1 D. Harley – S. Klofa
- 2 S. Saoud – A. Glasson
- 3 A. Maluish – A. Mill

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 7 (April 1)*

2 L. Carroll – A. Peirce (Echuca)

Event 8 (April 24)

2 C. Van Lier – M. Christopher (Sale)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS**Bayside Autumn Congress**Saturday 6th May, 10 am: Swiss PairsSunday 7th May, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Beaumaris Bowls Club
Martin St
Beaumaris

Contact: Jan Clyne, 0418 556 382

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>**Sale Congress**Saturday 20th May, 11:30 am: Swiss PairsSunday 21st May, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue The Laurels Sale Racecourse
Sale

Contact: Lou Veenstra, 5199 2898

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>**Bendigo Congress**Saturday 27th May, 10 am: Swiss PairsSunday 28th May, 9:30 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Bendigo All Seasons Hotel
171-183 McIvor Rd

Contact: Kevin Gunn, 0407 823 373

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>**Moonee Valley Congress**Sunday 4th June, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue 2a Pattison St
Moonee Ponds

Contact: Michael Halfpenny, 0428 458 566

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS****State**

Diana Baldwin	Sale
Margaret Delaney	Knox
Peter Grey	Rye Beach
Janet Keenan	RACV
Patrick Morgan	Frankston
Harry Procel	Bridge Fanatics
Matthew Roberts	Moonee Valley
Diana Sher	Kooyong
Jim Skeen	Waverley
John Waldie	Bendigo
Nicholas Walsh	Shepparton
Shayne Wurf	RACV

***State**

Les Ajzner	VBA
Lyell Cooke	Berwick
Lyn Mayer	Moonee Valley
Lorrie Read	Phillip Island
Mark Rosenow	Ovens & Murray

National

Adrian Dezilva	Bendigo
John Evans	VBA
Alonzo Ng	Yarra Valley
Chris Raisin	Eastern
Pat Waite	Bairnsdale

***National**

Molly Butcher	Moonee Valley
Jill Haworth	Dromana
Robyn Hewson	VBA
Frank McConvill	Rye Beach
Riekie Moerenhout	Yarra Valley
Patrick Zhang	VBA

****National**

Linda Healy	Macedon Ranges
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Life

Jenny Johnstone	Geelong
Bill Jones	Geelong
Pam Jones	Geelong
Christopher Leach	MCC
Dell Macneil	Waverley
Lea Woolf	Dendy Park

Bronze Life

Barbara a'Beckett	Dendy Park
Kevin Crough	Geelong
Lorraine Griffiths	Bendigo
Jacqui Morton	Moonee Valley
Annette Rose	Waverley
Denis Upsall	Bendigo

Silver Life

Robin Macauley	Geelong
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Gold Life

Raji Muir	Moonee Valley
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Silver Grand

Len Meyer	VBA
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Gold Grand

Gary Ridgway	Geelong
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THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

Professionally, I spend a lot of time on innovation. A potentially dangerous mantra in innovation is to "think outside the box" but one of our newest clubs recently applied that mantra very literally and very successfully.



Michael Goh and Bruce Minchinton founded the Nagambie Bridge club a little over a year ago, and now have an impressive 53 members. Read about their BIG day below, when they got outside the literal box of their normal club room and doubled their usual table numbers ... by playing in a member's beautiful shady garden.

We don't all have to get literally outside the box, but there are always things we can try to shake things up a bit and add some more fun to our regular bridge sessions. In fact, there's excellent research that says many small changes work well largely because they get made.

In other words, we should worry less about whether our little step outside the usual bridge session box is good, let alone best – it will probably be good just because we try it.

To give a new meaning to an old but nifty phrase from communism, what we need is a permanent revolution!

NAGAMBIE'S B.I.G. 2017: BRIDGE IN THE GARDEN Michael Goh

Red masterpoints in a green outlook!

Active, fun and popular Nagambie Bridge Club ran its inaugural "Bridge in the Garden" on Thursday 23rd March, 2017 at the beautiful ROSCREA homestead.

This was a Garden Party/Bridge event with a difference!

Traditionally this popular card game is played indoors, but NBC pushed boundaries by having the game played al fresco.

There are many wonderful outdoor places in Nagambie to host B.I.G. 2017 but NBC chose Roscrea for its beautiful garden with large mature trees providing plenty of shade and serenity. Besides, the owner of this lovely home/ B&B Helen Kennedy is a popular member of NBC.

Both Dan and Helen Kennedy were terrific hosts; and together with another NBC member, Jo Goodacre, they put on a delicious morning tea and lunch for everyone, with local award-winning wines to quench the thirst.

News about this event spread near and far.

Although NBC had intended to keep this affair local, some people from Melbourne (and as far as Warrigal) got wind of B.I.G. 2017 and travelled up to Nagambie for a nice day out playing their favourite card game and soaking up the atmosphere.

In the end there were 44 very delighted bridge players enjoying this historic Bridge in The Garden in beautiful Nagambie!

Due to its immense success, B.I.G. 2018 is certainly on the cards (excuse the pun)!

Nagambie Bridge: Brilliantly Fun



Editor's note: Nagambie Bridge Club is one of the state's newest, but is rapidly growing, and very active with two sessions per week and classes for both beginners and improvers. Visit their website at <http://www.nagambiebridgeclub.com.au/>.

FOR BIDDERS

In recent bulletins, we have been extolling the virtue of the pre-emptive jump raise. You may be sick of it by now. For example, if they overcall or double your partner's 1♥ opening, and you hold:

♠ xxx ♥ Qxxx ♦ Kxxx ♣ xx

then jump the bidding to 3♥, with the aim of depriving the opponents of bidding room in which to investigate their best contract.

Could this principle also apply if RHO passes over your partner's opening bid?

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	Pass	?

You could certainly bid 2♥ and hope to buy the contract there. But it's a competitive game, and if your side can make just 2♥ in your 9-card fit, the chances are that the opponents can make a contract of their own, and a simple 2♥ response makes it so much easier for them to compete. A pre-emptive 3♥ will be much more challenging for them.

In the competitive auctions, the genuine game-invitational raise was handled by either a cue-bid or 2NT, but here it's trickier.

A popular method is **Bergen Raises**. This approach makes use of jumps in new suits to show various types of raise. After say partner's 1♥ opening, bid as follows:

- 2♥ 6-9 HCP, 3-card support
- 2♠ 10-12 HCP, 3-card support*
- 3♣ 7-10 HCP, 4-card support
- 3♦ 10-12 HCP, 4-card support
- 3♥ 3-6 HCP, 4-card support
- 4♥ "weak freak": lots of support and shape, but not much high-card strength

(* jumping in the other major shows a game-invitational hand with 3-card support: so 2♠ over a 1♥ opening, 3♥ over a 1♠ opening. If you play classic 2-over-1 methods, you can show this hand with a forcing 1NT response, after which you plan to jump in partner's major. But that's another story altogether.)

Bergen Raises are the creation of, not surprisingly, American expert Marty Bergen, and it's fair to say that they have taken the world by storm.

One of their virtues is that they make a big effort of distinguishing between 3-card support and 4-card support. In competitive auctions, this is very important, because the length of your trump fit has a dual effect on the deal. The more combined trumps you have, obviously the more tricks you are liable to make in your contract. But also, the more trumps you have, the more tricks *your opponents* are liable to make in *their* trump suit. This principle is what drives the Law of Total Tricks, and the Law of Total Trumps.

We've almost got this raise business nailed. But not quite. If a 4♥ response to 1♥ is a "weak freak", and all those other raises are based on hands not strong enough to force to game, what is one to do with support and enough for game, or maybe slam?

... to be continued

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: South ♠ A62
 Vul: all ♥ 94
 ♦ 43
 ♣ 1086432

N
S

♠ KQJ109
 ♥ A5
 ♦ AK852
 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♣K. You win, and start the diamonds: ♦A, ♦K (all follow), and ♦2, West follows with ♦J. Now what?

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

♠ 7	♠ A62	♠ 8543			
♥ QJ862	♥ 94	♥ K1073			
♦ QJ96	♦ 43	♦ 107			
♣ KQJ	♣ 1086432	♣ 975			
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N					
S					
	♠ KQJ109				
	♥ A5				
	♦ AK852				
	♣ A				

If diamonds are dividing 3-3, the contract will be easy. But if East is out of them, you have a problem, probably unable to safely ruff two diamonds ... and there is a heart loser.

You can prettily fix this by combining these two problems into the one trick. Discard a heart from dummy on this trick, giving the defence their heart trick now, and avoiding the need to ruff two diamonds.

Ruff the (say) club return, then ruff a diamond with the ♠A. Return to the ♥A, ruff your second heart, then draw trumps and claim.

An equivalent alternative play is to ruff the third round of diamonds with the ♠A, return to the ♥A, and discard a heart on the fourth round of diamonds.

This deal is from the 1938 ANC, and was successfully negotiated by the declarer, Bob Williams.

OPEN TEAM PLAYOFF FINAL Bill Jacobs

The final 64 board match to determine Victoria's open team at the upcoming ANC was a hotly contested affair.

The Pennant team (Jamie Ebery – Leigh Gold, Robert Fruewirth – Brad Wein, Laura Ginnan – Jamie Thompson) were up against the VQP team (Chen Ding – Daoping Nie, Ming Zhang – Victor Zhang, Gordon McRobert – Thilak Ranasinghe), and it was insanely swingy, with 347 imps swapped: that's an average of 5.4 imps per board.

With 2 boards to play, the VQP team was ahead by just 1 imp, and here was the crucial deal, from the point of view of Jamie Ebery, sitting West with only the opponents vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
Jamie Ebery	Daoping Nie	Leigh Gold	Chen Ding
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

He was on lead to 3NT with:

♠ 1075 ♥ J976 ♦ K52 ♣ KQ9

What should he lead? What would *you* lead?

The full deal:

Dir: North	♠ A3				
Vul: N/S	♥ AKQ85				
	♦ 10986				
	♣ A8				
♠ 1075	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		S	♠ Q9864
N					
S					
♥ J976		♥ 103			
♦ K52		♦ AJ74			
♣ KQ9		♣ 64			
	♠ KJ2				
	♥ 42				
	♦ Q3				
	♣ J107532				

Jamie led the ♣K (as alas would I). Chen Ding wasted no time in continuing with clubs, wrapping up 10 tricks. With the Pennant team making a heart partscore at the other table, that was 10 imps to VQP and the match, as the final board was flat.

In a recent "Tip of the Month" article, we recommended making a lead in a suit partner could not have easily bid, when faced with a guess. That tip seemed to apply here: partner, who presumably has a few points, failed to overcall 1♠ and therefore is less likely to have them. This points the way to a minor suit lead, and the stronger clubs were clearly preferential to the diamonds.

That begs the key question: *should Leigh Gold as East have overcalled 1♠ at favourable vulnerability?* If he had, the Pennant team would have won the match (N/S still reach 3NT via the same auction, and now West has an easy spade lead).