

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

December 2017

Editor: Bill Jacobs



THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



As we head into the festive season, I want to talk about gifts.

At the VBA, we are very grateful for a recent bequest from Lilli Allgood's estate to create an award for duplicate play at the VBA in memory of her late husband Ray (see later in this bulletin for details). Lilli was a terrific character and one of Australia's most enthusiastic and successful duplicate players (she earned the 9th most green masterpoints ever). She was always very supportive of new players and often helped out at the VBA at our supervised sessions.

There are all sorts of gifts, large and small, that many bridge players make to their bridge group. Often we don't even think of them as gifts and yet they are so important to the success of our game and our community. Bringing a cake for supper, sponsoring an event, giving a trophy for the club championship, donating money for essential equipment, and of course donating time as volunteer workers are just a few examples of the many ways people help out.

Thank you to everyone who gives – in whatever way – to our community.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a joyful festive season, and a peaceful and prosperous 2018.

NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

VBA Council

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, the following were elected to the VBA Council for 2018:

President:	Ben Thompson
Vice President:	Christopher Leach
Treasurer:	Neil Ewart
Secretary:	Kim Frazer
Councillor:	David Morgan
Councillor:	Penny Blankfield
Councillor:	Jenny Thompson
Special Councillor:	Richard Giles
Special Councillor:	Rob Quirk

In addition to her responsibilities as a councillor, Jenny Thompson will be assuming the role of Chair of the Match & Tournament Committee. Other M&TC committee members are Diana Smart, Michael Phillips, Jamie Thompson and Laurie Kelso.

Affiliated Clubs' Day, 2018

On Saturday March 3rd, the VBA will be hosting a day for affiliated club Presidents, Congress Organisers and other affiliated club members who may wish to attend. A key topic for the day will be Congress Participation. More information about this day will be coming out soon.

FOR STARTERS

In a matchpoint duplicate, with everyone vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ AQ6 ♥ K ♦ 10874 ♣ KJ872

RHO is the dealer and opens 1♥.

Your call.

You have 13 HCP and a moderate 5-card club suit, so it's plausible to overcall 2♣. "Plausible" is the kindest adjective I could find: "distasteful" would be nearer the mark for me.

2♣ puts all your eggs into the club basket, and it would not surprise me to be stranded there, going several down, vulnerable, for a similarly "distasteful" score.

Passing is a lot wiser than a 2♣ overcall, but did you consider making a takeout double? The most likely way for you to profitably win in this auction is to find a fit in spades, the highest ranking suit. Your hand meets all the requirements for a takeout double:

- Opening strength
- At most a doubleton in their suit
- At least 3 in every side suit.

You double, but it seems it is all in a lost cause, as the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♥	D'ble
2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

At least you tried. Now it's your lead, which is?

Many people tend to simply lead 4th highest of their longest and strongest in this situation, but it's oh-so-wrong.

4th best leads are a technique for leading again notrump contracts. You lead your best suit, because that's the suit where you are hoping to take tricks, once declarer's stoppers are exhausted. And you lead low to

retain communications with your partner's hand.

This has practically nothing to do with leading to *suit* contracts. It's little use to set up eventual winners in your long suit, because then declarer will trump them. Meanwhile, you run the considerable risk of giving declarer a 'free' trick in the suit led, a trick that never comes back to you.

Leading the ♣7 here is just asking to donate a trick to declarer. If partner has the ♣Q or ♣A it might work OK, but if he doesn't ... And why should he have a club honour? The opponents have reached a game, and you have 13 HCP.

A spade is also out of the question for the same reasons. And leading the ♥K is wrong: that card might be worth a trick if declarer finesses to it.

A diamond is the correct lead. Leading from rubbish suits is an excellent strategy against suit contracts, unless your aim is to get into the newspapers. Such leads give nothing away: declarer has to do all the work.

You lead the ♦4 and see:

4♥ by	♠ J93									
South	♥ Q1082									
	♦ KQ									
	♣ 9654									
♠ AQ6	<table style="width: 100%; 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								
♥ K										
♦ 10874										
♣ KJ872										

Declarer wins the ♦K (partner ♦2, declarer ♦3) and plays the ♥Q, ♥3, ♥4 and you win your ♥K.

Now what?

It's worth pausing at this point to think about declarer's hand, based on the bidding. He clearly has the ♦A, and no doubt the ♥A and ♥J. That's 9 HCP. He jumped to 4♥ over his partner's simple raise to 2♥, so we need to find a lot more. He will have the ♠K and ♣A for sure: that brings him to 16 HCP.

That's still not enough. Only the ♣Q and ♦J are left, and he may well have both those

cards. That leaves for partner ... well, no wonder he's looking a bit uninterested over there!

Continue with Plan A: the thrilling do-absolutely-nothing defence. Continue with another diamond rather than breaking new ground. The full deal:

♠ AQ6	♠ J93	♠ 10752
♥ K	♥ Q1082	♥ 653
♦ 10874	♦ KQ	♦ J963
♣ KJ872	♣ 9654	♣ 103

♠ K84	N	♠ 10752
♥ AJ974	W E	♥ 653
♦ A52	S	♦ J963
♣ AQ		♣ 103

Declarer can flail around all he likes, but as soon as he loses a black suit finesse to you, you simply lead back that suit. Down one.

Points to remember:

- Don't overcall in a minor at the 2-level with a poor suit. It's dangerous and unhelpful. (The same argument does not apply to overcalling in a ratty major at the 1-level, which is less dangerous, and more likely to result in your side winning the auction.)
- Don't automatically lead 4th highest of your longest and strongest against suit level. 4th best leads are for notrump contracts only. Repeat after me: *4th best leads are for notrump contracts only.*
- Continuing the argument, leading from unprotected honours (like ♠AQx, ♥K, ♣KJxxx) is usually poor strategy against suit contracts, unless of course your partner has bid the suit. Leading from suits that contain no honours, or only low honours (such as the ten or the jack) are much better, as it forces declarer to do all the work.
- When dummy appears, you can often use the bidding to work out what honour cards declarer is likely to have.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Partner's Pre-empt is Overcalled

Nil vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♠	3♦	?

There is not a lot of high science that can be applied to auctions that begin with a pre-emptive opening bid. But there are principles that should be adhered to, and room for plenty of bidding judgment.

Partner's 2♠ opening shows around 6 to 10 HCP, and a decent 6-card suit. That's about it: there are a number of other possible restrictions (no side major, no void, not two aces, blah, blah, blah), but they should be taken with a grain of salt.

Clearly you might want to support spades at some suitable level – no problem there. A raise to 3♠ is purely competitive, not invitational. To make a game try in spades, you basically bid 4♠, and try to make it.

A new suit is natural and forcing, and similarly to if RHO had passed, you need a strong hand and suit to go venturing outside of spades.

That leaves a double – what should that mean? An excellent principle is that after partner opens with a pre-empt, your doubles *are for penalties*. There is no point making a takeout, or negative double, because the pre-empt means that opener is unlikely to have another suit anyway.

That pre-amble should be enough to go on with. Choose your poison with:

- (a) ♠ 74 ♥ A983 ♦ Q82 ♣ K1076
- (b) ♠ Q4 ♥ A983 ♦ 872 ♣ K1076
- (c) ♠ AQ4 ♥ A3 ♦ 9872 ♣ K1076
- (d) ♠ 74 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q1082 ♣ A1076
- (e) ♠ AQ4 ♥ A3 ♦ 872 ♣ AKJ106
- (f) ♠ 4 ♥ AQ3 ♦ Q82 ♣ AKQJ76

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♠	3♦	?

(a) ♠ 74 ♥ A983 ♦ Q82 ♣ K1076

Pass. With your doubleton spade, you have an 8-card fit. But that doesn't mean you should bid 3♠, although it could work, if 3♠ were to go down 1 or 2, and 3♦ is making. But will 3♦ always make? You have the makings of 3 tricks, and partner could help. Try for a plus score against 3♦.

(b) ♠ Q4 ♥ A983 ♦ 872 ♣ K1076

3♠. Moving the queen from diamonds to spades makes a huge difference. If you put this hand down as dummy, partner will smile upon seeing the ♠Q. 3♠ has good chances to make, and what's more, you are far less likely to be defeating 3♦ with this hand.

(c) ♠ AQ4 ♥ A3 ♦ 9872 ♣ K1076

4♠. Or 3♠. Whatever you think you can make. But the fit is excellent, partner might be able to ruff a heart, and with diamonds bid on your right, there is every chance that partner has a singleton, or at most a doubleton, in that suit.

(d) ♠ 74 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q1082 ♣ A1076

D'ble. It's worth speculating to get a good score. You can see a heart trick, maybe two, a diamond trick, maybe two, and a club trick. And any partner worth their salt will contribute *something* to the defence.

(e) ♠ AQ4 ♥ A3 ♦ 872 ♣ AKJ106

5♠. An unsolicited jump to 5 of a major, when the opponents bid a suit, asks partner to bid on to slam if he has first or second round control in that suit. If partner has a singleton diamond, you will make 6♠. If partner has 3 diamonds, *tant pis*.

(f) ♠ 4 ♥ AQ3 ♦ Q82 ♣ AKQJ76

3NT. Because it's there. If they play diamonds, you have 8 tricks: 6 clubs, 1 diamond, 1 heart. And where there's 8, there's 9.

CONGRESS RESULTS**Waverley Congress***Swiss Pairs*

North-South

- 1 G. Hill – J. Tunks
- 2 P. Edwards – M. Decouto
- 3 S. Gluck – B. Kingham

East-West

- 1 C. Hughes – S. Henbest
- 2 S. Groves – A. Lowe
- 3 L. Robinson – C. Fernando

Swiss Teams

- 1 B. Geyer, G. Lovrecz, K. Bailey, G. Bailey
- 2 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, D. Nie, C. Ding
- 3 R. van Riel, D. Harley, N. Ewart, D. Beckett

South Gippsland Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 A. Maluish – A. Mill
- 2 M. Callander – S. Collins
- 3 S. White – F. Kovacs

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Callander, S. Collins, F. Kovacs, S. White
- 2 S. Klofa, A. Czapnik, D. Harley, A. St Clair
- 3 S. Watson, C. Watson, C. Van Lier, J. Anderson

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 S. Klofa – C. Arul
- 2 C. Senior – S. Lester
- 3 S. White – R. Berlinski

Bridge at Tivoli Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 T. Ranasinghe – L. Saoud
- 2 M. Allison – R. O'Dell
- 3 A. Maluish – A. Mill

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 22 (November 19)*

- 2 R. Moss – A. Drury (South Gippsland)
- 3 H. Gordon – P. Lardy (Frankston)

STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Teams (Pennant)

- 1 N. Howard, A. Macready-Bryan, N. Ewart, D. Beckett, C. Hughes, S. Henbest
- 2 J. Ebery, D. Smart, D. Morgan, D. Harley, R. van Riel
- 3 G. Ridgway, A. Robbins, D. Newlands, D. Newland



Victorian Pennant Winners (l-r): David Beckett, Simon Henbest, Andrew Macready-Bryan, Nathan Howard, Neil Ewart, Chris Hughes

Victorian Swiss Pairs

- 1 B. Thompson – D. Thompson
- 2 R. Livingston – P. Hill
- 3 S. Weisz – R. Gallus

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

VBA Summer Congress

Saturday 9th December, 10 am Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 10th December, 10 am Swiss Teams

Venue VBA
 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena

Contact: Andrew Macready-Bryan, 9530 9006

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

Gardenvale Congress

Tuesday 26th December – Tuesday 2nd January
 Various events

Venue 20 Spink St, Brighton

Contact: Jeff Fust, 9530 6622

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

BEGINNER LESSONS

Learn bridge at the VBA

The VBA will run two sets of beginners' lessons, starting Wednesday 24th January, 2018 at 10.30 am, and Thursday 25th January at 7:30 pm.

The venue is the VBA Clubrooms at 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena. The cost is \$100, which includes a full set of notes.

Each course will run for 6 consecutive weeks, and includes a set of notes. Participants are welcome to come to alternative sessions (day/night) if they miss a lesson or two.

To book, call the VBA on 9530 9006 or Andrew Macready-Bryan on 0417 543 076.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Sally Foster	Melbourne
Anne Hill	Macedon Ranges
Merlyn Pritchard	Bendigo
Sylvia Ronchi	Phillip Island
Ruth Smith	Moonee Valley
George Wagner	Benalla

*State

David Oon	Ballarat
Nicholas Walsh	Shepparton

National

Dawn Braham	Sale
Peter Burt	Bendigo

*National

Michael Francis	Sunbury
Beverley Kroger	Geelong

**National

Every Hechtman	VBA
Sandra Mansell	Melbourne

Life

Faye Bell	Geelong
Margot Moylan	Moonee Valley

Bronze Life

Trish Steward-Uden	Phillip Island
Sandor Varga	Lakes Entrance

Gold Life

Greg Nicholson	Phillip Island
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Silver Grand

Dee Harley	Grand Prix
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TIP OF THE MONTH

Here's a problem from a recent duplicate:

♠ AJ9763 ♥ A ♦ 7 ♣ AKJ42

The auction commences:

Partner	You
	1♠
3♥	?

It would be nice to know what partner's 3♥ bid means. Is it a strong bid? A weak bid? Something else?

When you are thinking of making a jump response in a new suit to partner's opening bid, here is my final tip of the month for 2017:

DON'T

Or at least, not until you have fully discussed it with your partner.

For the record, responder's hand was:

♠ - ♥ KQJ10863 ♦ A952 ♣ Q5

There is a laydown slam here, a grand slam even, but only 2 of 17 pairs reached one. Here is a simple auction:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♥
3♣	4♥
4NT	5♦
6♥	Pass

Responder shows 10+ HCP with his response, then jumps to 4♥ to show a limited hand but with a totally self-sufficient suit.

Opener can then be confident that hearts will work as trumps, so uses some form of ace-asking to bid a slam. In this example, I have used simple Blackwood.

You don't need jump shifts. So unless you have a firm agreement with your partner about them, don't make them. They will just lead to confusion.

For the record, here are some options:

Strong

Shows about 14+ HCP, and a good 6-card suit (at least two of the three top honours). An attempt to get across the strength of both the hand and the suit.

Weak

Essentially equivalent to having *opened* with that bid. About 6-10 HCP, and a good 6-card suit for a jump to the 2-level, and a good 7-card suit for a jump to the 3-level.

Ultra Weak

A hand with a long suit but with the high card points that normally passes the opening bid. So about 3-5 HCP, and a 6-card suit for a jump to the 2-level, a 7-card suit for a jump to the 3-level.

This is actually a fine approach, because it allows you to describe a hand that you couldn't describe any other way.

Fit Showing

A fit-showing jump shows a fit for partner's opened suit and a 5+ cards in the suit jumped. It can allow opener to discover double-fits for game or slam purposes.

Bergen Raises

These are increasingly popular, over partner's 1♥ or 1♠ opening.

3♣: 6-8 HCP, 4-card support

3♦: 9-11 HCP, 4-card support

3 other-major: 10-12 HCP, 3-card support

Mini Splinter Raises

Another popular approach: a jump shows support for partner's suit, invitational to game values, and a singleton or void in the bid suit. For example, bid 3♣ over 1♥ with:

♠ Qxxx ♥ Jxxx ♦ AQJx ♣ x

Bergen Raises and Mini-Splinters are topics that deserve articles in their own rights.

THE POWER OF ONE
Bill Jacobs

Final boards that decide crucial matches always get looked at closely, and this was no exception. This time it was the final of the US Spingold National, in Toronto.

With one board to go, Lavazza led by 3 imps, and Dennis Bilde, their North player, held:

- ♠ A6
- ♥ K4
- ♦ 10952
- ♣ AKQ82

With no-one vulnerable, and dealer on his left, it went Pass, Pass, and RHO opened 1♥.

At this point, he held the fate of the match in his hands. What would you have done?

♠ A6	♥ K4	♦ 10952	♣ AKQ82
♠ 2	♥ AQJ82	♦ AQJ74	♣ 76
♠ 97543	♥ 65	♦ 86	♣ 10954
♠ KQJ108	♥ 10973	♦ K3	♣ J3

Bilde overcalled 2♣, resulting in this auction:

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	D'ble	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner bid his spades, and when West came in with 3♦, Bilde doubled to show a strong hand, with uncertainty about where to go next. Partner, with strong spades, went for 4♠, and that contract made effortlessly with an overtrick.

That result cost Bilde and Lavazza the match and the tournament.

At the other table, Espen Lindqvist, holding the North cards chose a 1NT overcall. This was the resulting auction:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	D'ble
Pass	Pass	3♥	D'ble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After the 1NT bid, South again showed his spades (with a transfer bid) and West again bid diamonds. But now the auction diverged. North, having already shown his strength, simply passed 3♦, and it was South that made the takeout double. Lindqvist was happy to pass for penalties, and South dealt with the removal to 3♥.

Down 4 and an 800 point penalty resulted in 8 imps to the Diamond team, winning the match by 5.

By bidding 1NT and getting his strength and approximate shape across in one bid, Lindqvist was able to achieve the penalty. The power of a 1NT bid cannot be underestimated: I am going to be selecting that bid in the future, wherever possible.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: North	♠ AK5						
Vul: all	♥ AK3						
	♦ A97653						
	♣ 7						
♣3 led	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">S</td></tr> <tr><td>♠ 9762</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ QJ54</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ K2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ A108</td></tr> </table>	N	S	♠ 9762	♥ QJ54	♦ K2	♣ A108
N							
S							
♠ 9762							
♥ QJ54							
♦ K2							
♣ A108							

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥*
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* not such a smart bid

The ♣3 is led to the ♣K and your ace. Take it from there

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

♠ AK5
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ A97653
 ♣ 7
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ 10872
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ Q963
 N
 S
 ♠ J843
 ♥ 62
 ♦ J10
 ♣ KJ542
 ♠ 9762
 ♥ QJ54
 ♦ K2
 ♣ A108

You haven't lived until you've played a slam in a dodgy 4-3 fit.

You will need to set up dummy's diamonds but also maintain the communications required to draw trumps.

Playing three rounds of diamonds ruffing the third round will leave you without trump control, and down you go. Discarding on the third round of diamonds is better, but then another round of trumps will force out dummy's low trump, leaving you without the entry to hand needed to draw trumps. Down you go.

The solution is to duck a diamond right now, leading the ♦2 and playing low from dummy. This retains the ♦K in your hand, which is the entry required to draw trumps. No other play will succeed.

All you need is diamonds 3-2 and trumps no worse than 4-2. Not such a dodgy slam after all.

FALSECARDING
Bill Jacobs

The art of falsecarding (generally defined as playing a higher card than you need to play on a trick) as declarer is one that is largely ignored in bridge literature. And yet it is one of the safest activities known to man, as partner's role is reduced to playing dummy's cards. Many years ago, I kibitzed Tim Seres through a session of matchpoints. He played his fair share of contracts, and he virtually never played the lowest card out of his hand when following suit or leading a spot card to

a trick. His plan was clearly to make signalling life as difficult for his opponents as possible.

Deliberate falsecarding is a science as well as an art. There is only one basic rule, and that is:

Issue your own signals as declarer using the signalling methods of the defenders.

That means that if your opponents are using standard signalling methods, then you play a high card to encourage the suit led, and a low card to discourage. The theory is that if you play a high card (thus concealing a low spot card), then a defender's card will seem "high" to his partner, thus making a continuation more likely. Similarly, if you play a low card, then you promote the "lowness" of the defender's card.

You must reverse your falsecards if the defenders play upside-down signals – low to encourage the lead, high to discourage.

Let's see how this rule-of-thumb applies to the following problem:

Dir: South ♠ Q43
 Vul: All ♥ A984
 ♦ 43
 ♣ J732
 N
 S
 ♠ J85
 ♥ KQJ62
 ♦ AK
 ♣ AQ4

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the spade king, East following with the 7.

Well, most likely that 7 is from a doubleton and you can suffer a spade ruff, which will probably sink the contract. You want to suggest to the opening leader that RHO has three spades, thus encouraging him to switch to a minor before the spade queen gets set up. To do this, you issue a discouraging signal for spades, depending on the opponent's methods.

First assume your opponents use standard signals: you discourage spades with the 5. From LHO's perspective, his partner's 7 could have been from J87 - so he might now consider switching.

But if the opponents use upside-down signals (so the 7 is from 97 or 107 in all likelihood), you should follow to the first spade with the eight, concealing the five. Now opening leader must consider the possibility that his partner started with J75, 1075 or 975. If you instead follow with the 5, then opening leader can be fairly sure that his partner started with a doubleton spade.

It would be an error in either scenario to follow with the jack. A capable LHO will not play you for a singleton spade, because that makes a set unlikely, and moreover, his partner might have bid 2♠ holding four card support. So LHO will see through your ruse and bang down the spade ace, thinking "if declarer is encouraging me to switch, then I'll continue".

Suppose opposite the same dummy and same bidding, your hand had been:

♠ 85 ♥ KQJ762 ♦ AQJ ♣ A4

In this scenario, you want to encourage a spade continuation, so if the opponents are playing standard, you encourage with the 8 (making the 7 look like top of a doubleton); or if the opponents are playing reverse, you play 5.

There's quite a lot to this falsecarding game! And you have to do your thinking (and

question-asking) before following suit from your hand.

This second problem is much less obvious, and proves the rule that "every rule has its exceptions" (apologies for the paradox):

Dir: West ♠ J865
 Vul: nil ♥ KQ52
 ♦ J4
 ♣ K74

N
S

♠ KQ10973
 ♥ 93
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ Q5

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

After West's natural weak two opening, you reach 4♠, and West leads the diamond 10.

No doubt you see the danger to 4♠ - RHO wins the spade ace, leads a heart to his partner's ace and gets a ruff in return.

The counter play is bold and difficult to spot: lead a heart yourself! LHO will grab his ace, thinking you have led a singleton heart, and look to clubs. But be careful, you have to lead the right spot card. If the defenders play standard signals, then you must lead the nine - whatever RHO's singleton, his partner will think it is a doubleton with the three. But if the defenders play upside-down, you must lead the three, and hope that RHO's play is consistent with 9x doubleton

In a recent ABF Management Committee Meeting it was decided that any disciplinary suspension that was applied in a Congress or State event would then apply to all Congress, State or National events throughout the country.

The Committee recommended that all States and Territories consider adopting Disciplinary Procedures like those implemented by the VBA and about to be adopted by the NSWBA.

The VBA's Congress Disciplinary Procedures are in the process of being updated to reflect this latest directive: these updates will apply from 2018 onwards.

Attention all Duplicate players **The Ray Allgood Award**



Many of you will remember Lilli and Ray Allgood, stalwarts of this club and great advocates and supporters of duplicate bridge for many years.

It is with great pleasure that the VBA announces the introduction of the **Ray Allgood Award**.

The Ray Allgood award is from a bequest from Lilli's estate which awards a free game of duplicate to each winner of a club duplicate at the VBA.

We plan to inaugurate the award on January 1st, and will introduce a handicapping system to try to spread the joy amongst as many people as possible.

Each field in a normal Club duplicate (including Nationwide Pairs) will receive a voucher for a free game. Howell movements will produce one winner, Mitchell movements will have 2 winners.

The handicapping system will compare a player's score with their average score from their last 10 games.

We look forward to implementing this wonderful legacy and thank Lilli and Ray and their estate for their generosity.

Which club's members like Congresses the most?

Recently the VBA did some analysis on which Victorian bridge clubs had the most active membership when it came to participation in Congresses. We considered the 20 largest clubs, and it turns out YARRA VALLEY has the most active membership when it comes to going to Congresses with 50% of the members participating in at least one Congress per annum. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the VBA was second on 44%, probably due to the large number of competition players in their ranks, whilst Dendy Park, Moonee Valley, Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Rye Beach and Frankston all had strong participation at Congresses with around 30% of each club's members taking part in congress events.

If you haven't yet dipped your toe into the congress waters, why not give one a go in 2018?



FINAL SPACES REMAIN

LUXURY VIETNAM BRIDGE TOUR

HOSTED BY DENNY NEWLAND WITH PHIL GUE & MARGARET WALTERS

7 - 18 MARCH 2018

Discover Vietnam with like minded travellers whilst strengthening your bridge skills with host Denny Newland. Champion player Phil Gue & Margaret Walters will also ensure your bridge is both enjoyable & instructive. A partner will always be available for the many bridge sessions on offer. You may also partake in a balanced itinerary with plenty of opportunities for sightseeing, relaxing by the pool or exploring the historic cities. Please join us on our South East Asian Bridge journey with non Bridge playing partners & friends most welcome.

Hoi An / Hanoi / Halong Bay from \$3990pp*

Your experience includes:

- International return economy airfares
- All internal airfares in Vietnam
- 11 nights in premium accommodation including 2 nights aboard chartered cruise in Halong Bay
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Bridge games & tutorials daily
- All tours & activities in Halong Bay

Sightseeing highlights include:

- Hoi An & Hanoi city tours
- Vietnamese cooking class and demonstration
- Visit a Pearl farm, TiTov Island, Titop Island, the 'Surprise Cave' and much more!

Ask us about optional extras:

- Solo traveller rooms available
- Business class flights
- Hotel room upgrades available
- Hong Kong extensions
- Sightseeing tours in Hoi An and Hanoi

Hurry,
places are
limited.



"Having played bridge for over thirty years I am very excited to be part of this fabulous Vietnam tour combined with Bridge. I look forward to supporting Phil to make for a relaxing, fun holiday and hope you can join us."
Denny Newland.

To find out more, freecall 1800 895 186 or email
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* Travel restrictions and conditions apply. Please ask us for further details. Prices correct as of 11th August 2017 and are subject to change without notice or sold out prior. Prices are per adult and are based on twin share accommodation on a minimum of 20 group members and are subject to availability. A single supplement price of \$1400 will apply for single travellers in individual rooms. A \$500 Expression of Interest deposit is due upon booking and is refundable if members are not met. Final payment is due by the 28 JANUARY. Seasonal surcharges and blackout dates may apply depending on date of travel. International flights are based on an ex-Melbourne price. Price based on lead in room category on Emerald Cruise. Prices shown are fully inclusive of taxes, levies, government charges and other applicable fees. Credit card fees may apply. Flight Centre Travel Group Limited (ABN 25 003 377 188) trading as Travel Associates. ATAS Accreditation No: A10412.

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Make 2018 your year to include two weeks in Tuscany during your next holiday.

JOIN MARY ELSON ON A BRIDGE PLAYING HOLIDAY IN TUSCANY DURING 2018

Stay in a Tuscan farmhouse, sharing meals and conversation with Rosalinda, Stefano and the family as well as enjoying the privacy of your own mini-apartment.

All your breakfasts, four evening meals each week, fabulous accommodation, transfers and stunning **tours** all based from Rosalinda and Stefano's Tuscan farmhouse near Cortona, are included in the price.

Experience the real Tuscany - six full day tours will be run by the family who have a wealth of knowledge about the area as well as regular half day trips to surrounding villages and places of interest! Experience the family's special Tuscan Sun tours to places like Siena, Assisi, Cortona and Montepulciano, and enjoy bridge lessons and play with Mary when you are at home. Mary is the manager of the popular Waverley Bridge Club and as well as being a director was named Victorian bridge teacher of the year in 2014. Having fun is very high on Mary's list of priorities, and as well as plenty of play and great opportunities to improve your bridge, enjoyment of the whole experience will be all important.

Availability is limited and places are filling fast.

Dates are: September 22 to October 6 2018

The price for two weeks is \$AUD800 deposit and €1800 final payment. (Currently this works out to around \$AUD3500.00).

Check the website at www.tuscansun.com.au.

For more information contact Pat Thomas on: 0419 357 717 or email: tuscansun@hotmail.com

