

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2018

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

Robbie van Riel passed away recently after a too-brief struggle with lung cancer. At his celebration it was wonderful to hear speakers from many aspects of his life. The common thread was his great intelligence, genial nature, and genuine humility. And of course his wonderful laugh!

Robbie loved all puzzles, and like all seriously good bridge players, he took bridge seriously. Yet even in the midst of serious bridge, he always remembered that while it is not just a game it is definitely still a game. He enjoyed the game and the people he enjoyed it with. His laugh was instantly recognisable and would bring a smile to even the most serious of faces.

Next time you feel like laughing at the table – do! Let us all laugh with you and share our enjoyment of our game. And if I should hear you, you shall help me remember my friend.

ROBBIE VAN RIEL 1949 - 2018

Robbie van Riel passed away on Sunday June 17 having stoically battled lung cancer all year.



Just the weekend beforehand he had managed to play a few matches in the VCC although he was in pain and moving slowly.

Robbie was an icon in the Australian bridge world. He represented Victorian in the Open teams at the National Championships 12 times between 1976 and 2006 and won 6 silver and one gold (1986). He also represented Victoria in the Seniors team twice. He won the Victorian Open teams in 1999. He was due to represent us again on the Open Team in Hobart next month.

Amongst his National titles Robbie won the National Open Teams twice (1979 and 1980) the Gold Coast Teams (1998) and the 2012 National Seniors Teams. He won the Bobby Evans Seniors Teams at the Spring Nationals in 2013. He played on several Australian teams in Seniors bridge and took home the bronze medal from the Asia-Pacific Open pairs in 2014.

Robbie is 34th in the all time list of Masterpoint winners.

He loved the theatre. He was an expert at cryptic crosswords. His explanations of why a cryptic answer was right sometimes seemed more cryptic than the original clue, but he always patiently expanded his explanation when asked!

Everyone who knew him will always remember his pure, joyful laugh.



Felicity Beale and Robbie, mid-cryptic

Our condolences go to Jan, Paul, Yoka, and all of his family and friends.

FOR STARTERS

In a duplicate game at your club, you pick up:

♠ 63 ♥ A954 ♦ J32 ♣ AQ73

LHO is the dealer and the auction starts:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	Pass	1♠	?

Your bid.

You don't have a 5-card suit, but there is the possibility of doubling for takeout. When the opponents have bid two suits, doubling by you shows the other two suits, at least 4 cards in each.

Your hand qualifies in this respect, and you have 11 HCP, so it is certainly plausible to double. But there are some negatives:

- If you have a fit, then the opponents are likely to have a fit, probably in spades. It's hard to compete successfully for the contract when the opposition has the 'boss' suit.
- You are vulnerable. Winning the auction might not help, if you then go down in hundreds.
- The opponents are bidding, your partner is passing. For the moment you must regard yourself as outgunned in the high-card-point department.
- If you double, you tell the opponents about your strength and distribution. This may help them if they get to play the hand.

That's a lot of negatives. Perhaps it's wiser to pass here. Let's say you do, and the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♠	All pass

Now it's your lead.

Stay a mile away from the clubs and the hearts. Leading from ace-suits against a suit contract rarely works (the important

exception being suits headed by the ace and king). Both the diamond and spade leads are plausible.

Often with suit contract leads, the aim is to avoid giving anything away. A suit that has no high cards in it is the prime example of a safe lead. It essentially doesn't do anything that declarer couldn't do himself. A spade lead here is safe. If it plays a finesse for declarer (partner having the king, or the queen), then there's no harm done: declarer would have taken that finesse anyway.

A diamond however is not quite so safe. You can construct diamond layouts where it's disastrous.

You lead a spade, and see:

♠ 63	♠ 84
♥ A954	♥ KQ82
♦ J32	♦ AK105
♣ AQ73	♣ 854

	N	
W		E
	S	

Partner plays the ♠J, and declarer wins with the ace. Next comes the ♥6. Your play.

It's difficult, but you should play 'second hand low'. The saying is there for a reason, and it works more often than not.

If you take the ace of hearts, then that sets up the king-queen in dummy. Such a defence would commit you to playing clubs next, hoping that partner has the ♣K. That's not particularly likely on this auction, where South has committed to a game contract. The bottom line is that if you play your ♥A here, declarer is probably going to make a lot of tricks.

Of course, you could lose your ♥A, should declarer have a singleton, but I suppose that is the risk you take in playing second hand low.

Declarer wins the heart in dummy, battles on for a time, but eventually goes down one. Your partner gained the lead in diamonds, and shot a club through declarer's gizzard, the full deal being:

♠ 84			♠ J95
♥ KQ82			♥ J1073
♦ AK105			♦ Q98
♣ 854			♣ J106
♠ 63	N W E S	♠ J95	
♥ A954		♥ J1073	
♦ J32		♦ Q98	
♣ AQ73		♣ J106	
♠ AKQ1072			
♥ 6			
♦ 764			
♣ K92			

Well what do you know – declarer did have a singleton heart. Had you won your ♥A when it was led, and played clubs, declarer would have made 11 tricks. If you had won your ♥A, but not played clubs, it's 10 tricks. It's only by playing low, and losing your heart trick, that you could defeat this contract.

Points to remember:

- When the opponents bid two suits, then a double by you is for takeout and shows at least four cards in both unbid suits.
- When the opponents bid two suits, partner is likely weak, and you should think twice about this action, as it may not help. If *spades* is one of your suits, then the prognosis is much better for your side. Spades rule!
- *Second hand low.* On many many defensive hands, you have no idea what's going on, no matter how good a player you are. So you have to fall back on general principles, and second-hand-low is a good one.

Victorian Open Team Selection Survey

The Match and Tournament Committee is adjusting the structure for selecting the Victorian Open team to contest the ANC.

There are three options for adjusting the selection structure and M&TC asks all interested players to complete a brief survey on those options. Visit <http://vba.asn.au/open-team-selection-survey/> for more details.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

After a high re-opening overcall

Nil vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

Auctions like this are never easy. Partner's 3♥ balance could be based on quite moderate values, since he will not want to give up the auction, especially if short in diamonds. He expects you to have *something* given that the opponents have stopped in 3♦.

Conversely, he could be quite strong, as there is little room to jump around. So his range is wide. Well, you know that pre-empts are difficult beasts to deal with.

Remember also that LHO, partner of the preemptor, could be lying low with a good hand but no diamond fit. So it pays to exercise a little caution.

What are your options? Quite limited. A change of suit here is not forcing, because you passed over the original opening bid, thus limiting your hand. So you could bid a new suit here to attempt to get to a better partscore contract, or even game should partner have support.

Other than that, it's either 3NT (with diamonds stopped and some points), or 4♥ with heart support and points, or of course pass. This is essentially a judgment situation.

Apply your bidding judgment with the following hands:

- (a) ♠ K965 ♥ Q93 ♦ J2 ♣ Q1072
- (b) ♠ A965 ♥ K93 ♦ J2 ♣ QJ102
- (c) ♠ A965 ♥ 93 ♦ KJ2 ♣ QJ102
- (d) ♠ A ♥ KJ93 ♦ 652 ♣ KJ1072
- (e) ♠ K106543 ♥ 3 ♦ 652 ♣ A72
- (f) ♠ K106543 ♥ 3 ♦ 652 ♣ AQJ

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

(a) ♠ K965 ♥ Q93 ♦ J2 ♣ Q1072

Pass. You have a few points, and heart support, but the fact is that partner was playing you for some points when he re-opened with 3♥. Let's hope your hand is enough for him to bring in 9 tricks.

(b) ♠ A965 ♥ K93 ♦ J2 ♣ QJ102

4♥. This is more like it. Heart support again, but now 11 HCP, which is more than partner could expect. Make a game try (i.e. bid a game and try to make it).

(c) ♠ A965 ♥ 93 ♦ KJ2 ♣ QJ102

3NT. In all likelihood that KJ2 in diamonds converts to two stoppers. That should be enough to hold out RHO's diamonds, and your other points give you hope that 9 tricks can be found somehow, somewhere.

(d) ♠ A ♥ KJ93 ♦ 652 ♣ KJ1072

4♦. Obviously this hand is a monster, in context. You passed over 3♦, but now have superb support and distribution points as well. Bidding 4♦ can only mean a strong hand with heart support. It does not promise a control in diamonds, only a hand that was much stronger than what you might have for a 4♥ raise (for example, hand (b)).

(e) ♠ K106543 ♥ 3 ♦ 652 ♣ A72

Pass. You might improve things by going to spades, but equally, you might make things much much worse. Look at it this way: if partner has a sufficiently good hand that 3♠ is making, he will be raising to 4♠, down one. Basically, when you're in a hole, stop digging.

(f) ♠ K106543 ♥ 3 ♦ 652 ♣ AQJ

3♠. This is a stronger hand than (e): if partner raises to 4♠, you would have good hopes of making it. So it's worth (just) having a go at contract improvement.

STATE RESULTS**Victorian Open Pairs***Championship*

- 1 W. Jacobs – B. Thompson
- 2 D. Beckett – N. Ewart
- 3 R. Gallus – S. Weisz

Plate

- 1 D. Harley – A. St Clair
- 2 L. Meyer – P. Moritz
- 3 S. Gluck – B. Kingham

CONGRESS RESULTS**Moonee Valley Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 P. Hollands – E. Samuel
- 2 K. Frazer – J. Ebery
- 3 V. Chang – G. Ghali

Swiss Teams

- 1 T. Ranasinghe, G. McRobert, C. Ding, D. Nie
- 2 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel
- 3 D. Harley, R. Gallus, S. Weisz, D. Klofa

Wodonga Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 J. Rava – D. Brennan
- 2 K. Smith – M. Wallis
- 3 G. Nicholson – J. Barbour

Swiss Teams

- 1 P. Glover, B. Krishan, D. Brennan, J. Rava
- 2 M. Wallis, K. Smith, Z. Roberts, J. Friesen
- 3 P. Corrigan, K. French, S. White, I. Webb

Dendy Park*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 J. Coutts – J. Ebery
- 2 A. St Clair – D. Harley
- 3 K. Zhang – J. Huang

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 11 (June 2)*

- 1 J. Day – B. Romeijn (Berwick)
- 2 A. Johnston – J. Sutton (South Gippsland)

Event 12 (June 18)

- 2 A. Drury – R. Moss (South Gippsland)
- 3 E. Ramshaw – A. Smith (Ballarat)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Kattery Congress

Saturday 7th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 8th July, 10 am: Gold Point Swiss Pairs

Venue Waverley Bridge Club
 21a Electra Ave
 Ashwood

Contact: Keith Kat, 0428 130 844

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Theodor Herzl Congress

Sunday 15th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue Theodor Herzl Club
 222 Balaclava Rd
 North Caulfield

Contact: Babi Ehrlich, 0417 593 101

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

Yarrowonga Congress

Saturday 21st July, 12 pm: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 22nd July, 9:30 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Mulwala Golf Club Resort
 Gulai Rd
 Mulwala

Contact: Jan Hackett, 0429 017 822

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Knox Congress

Saturday 4th August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 5th August, 10 am: Swiss Teams

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

Contact: Clare Stratton, 9725 9806

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

GNOT Heats

Several qualifying heats are being run in July to qualify teams for this national championship event.

Moonee Valley: Sunday July 15th ^{Swiss Pairs}

Gardenvale: Sunday July 22nd

Visit <https://vba.asn.au/> to get more details and links to entry forms.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Our congratulations go to Melbournians **Eva Caplan** and **Jenny Thompson**, who were on the Australian Women's team that won the Bronze Medal at the recent Asia Cup Championships in Goa, India.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Anna Field	Traralgon
Julie Fisher	RACV

*State

Alastair Lowe	Bayside
David Scott	Rye Beach

National

Maria Michelsson	Northern
Mary Mirabella	Frankston
Dorothy Scanlan	Berwick
Nick Walsh	Shepparton

*National

Deborah Anglim	Phillip Island
Helen Dolan	Ballarat
Alison Feiner	Geelong
David Hollands	RACV
Anne Small	Ballarat

**National

Frank Arndt	South Gippsland
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Life

Paul Corry	Frankston
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Bronze Life

Edward Lin	Waverley
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Silver Life

Yvonne Mears	Phillip Island
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Gold Life

Jean Macleod	Bairnsdale
Gwenda Mealya	Waverley

Grand

Jean Barbour	Phillip Island
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FINAL ANC TEAMS

We wish all our team representatives the very best of luck at the upcoming Hobart ANC.

Open: Leigh Gold (C), Jamie Ebery, Michael Gurfinkiel, Dee Harley, John Yang, David Morgan

Women: Robyn Hewson, Laura Ginnan, Maggie Callender, Penny Corrigan, Jean Hall, Franci Halmos (*Peter Hollands NPC*)

Seniors: Neil Ewart, Simon Henbest, Richard Greenfield, Sam Arber, Stephen Weisz, Robert Gallus (*Max Henbest NPC*)

Youth: Jamie Thompson, Victoria Thompson, Danni Fuller, Damon Flicker, John Mai (*Peter Hollands NPC*)

Some of those youth names might be unfamiliar to you. Jamie Thompson has more ...

Victoria's Youth Team

The ANC is quickly approaching and it's exciting to see a few new faces on our youth team. The debutantes are: John Mai (22), Damon Flicker (19) and Danni Fuller (22).

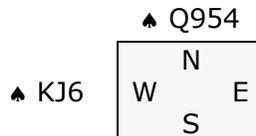
John has been attending my youth bridge night at Waverley for more than a year now and is improving rapidly. Damon has been brewed up by Laura Ginnan in recent years and plays semi-regularly at Dendy Park Bridge Club. Danni has not played much bridge at all but has very good pedigree, hailing from a bridge playing family back in Perth. Her cousin, Renee Cooper, won the prestigious Gold Coast teams back in February.

The rest of the team consists of myself (21) and my sister Victoria (20). Victoria has played on the youth team two times before and was successful in 2014 taking out the gold.

We hope the mixture of experience, talent and zeal can help our team along.
... Jamie Thompson

MY FAVOURITE SUIT COMBINATION Bill Jacobs

You are a defender against a 4♠ contract, and face this situation in trumps:



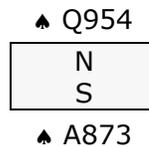
Declarer is in his hand and plays ♠A – you follow with the ♠6 and partner with the ♠2.

Now declarer plays another spade, the ♠3. What do you do?

It seems clear that your ♠J is doomed, with dummy's ♠Q sitting over it.

But it's not. You should play the ♠J with an air of supreme disinterest.

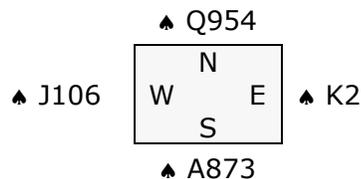
Now let's look at my favourite suit combination from declarer's perspective:



Not much to this suit: you're going to hope that West has the king. So you lead the ace, gathering small cards, and lead towards the queen.

West plays the ♠J with an air of supreme disinterest.

Would he have done that holding the king as well? Surely not, so perhaps *this* is the layout:



Therefore you play *low* from dummy, hoping that East's king will come down.

West smiles ... it turns out that his ♠J was not doomed after all.

... to be continued

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP: 2018

This national championship was an outstanding success that saw a very large entry (96 tables for the pairs, and 92 tables for the teams).

Congratulations to convenor Geoff Schaller, Chief Tournament Director Laurie Kelso and all those who contributed. It is a big job.

Lots and lots of Victorians visited the podium. The event winners were ...

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

Tony Nunn – James Coutts

McCance Seniors Swiss Pairs

George Kozakos – Arjuna De Livera

Sara Tishler Women’s Swiss Pairs

Elizabeth Havas – Diana Smart

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs

Alistair Lowe – Susie Groves

Frank Power <200 MP Swiss Pairs

Steve Colling – Mary Colling

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

Andrew Slutzkin, Fraser Thorpe, Lanny Chan, Ann McKay



Fraser Thorpe, Lanny Chan, Ben Thompson, Andrew Slutzkin, Ann McKay

Victor Champion Cup

Shane Harrison, Stephen Williams, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson



Matt Smith, Stephen Williams, Jamie Thompson, Shane Harrison, Ben Thompson

SEMINARS AT THE VBA

The first two seminars have been scheduled.

Saturday July 7th, 10 am

Bill Jacobs: all about takeout doubles

Saturday August 4th, 10 am

Chris Hughes: supporting partner’s major in competition.

Cost is \$20 for the session, or \$25 if you stay for the afternoon duplicate, starting at 1 pm.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: South ♠ 65
 Vul: all ♥ 973
 ♦ AJ10972
 ♣ 87

N
S

♠ AK7
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ K8
 ♣ AKQJ10

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	6NT	All pass	4NT

West leads the ♠Q. Plan the play. Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

	♠ 65	
	♥ 973	
	♦ AJ10972	
	♣ 87	
♠ QJ1043	N	♠ 982
♥ 1082		♥ K654
♦ 54		♦ Q63
♣ 963	S	♣ 542
	♠ AK7	
	♥ AQJ	
	♦ K8	
	♣ AKQJ10	

You could play ♦K and another diamond, planning to finesse West for the queen. That will work if West has ♦Q, ♦Qx or ♦Qxx. (If he has 4+ diamonds, you will also need a winning heart finesse.)

A much superior approach is to make a weird play in diamonds. Lead the ♦8 from your hand and put the ♦9 on it, no matter what card West plays.

If East wins the ♦Q, then claim. If the ♦9 holds, take the heart finesse. Later you will overtake the ♦K with the ♦A, and if the ♦Q hasn't dropped, repeat the heart finesse.

This line always makes the hand if the heart finesse works (so already you are ahead of the simple diamond alternative), but also if either defender has ♦Qx or ♦Q singleton, or East, humanly if erroneously, wins the first diamond with the ♦Q holding diamond length.

TIP OF THE MONTH

You hold

♠ 753 ♥ A983 ♦ A84 ♣ A95

I'll show it to you ...



No-one is vulnerable and you are in second seat. Dealer on your right passes. Should you open the bidding?

There's a term given to this hand: "*aces and spaces*". It refers to the fact that there is no picture of a human in your hand: no kings, queens or jacks. The hand looks barren as a result.

But it's not. It's an excellent hand. Three aces = 12 HCP, and you should open the bidding.

"Aces and spaces" is a derogatory term designed to convey that the hand is poor, when in fact the reverse is the case. The lack of picture cards has a negative psychological effect.

Partner's hand was:

♠ AKQ42 ♥ QJ1075 ♦ K92 ♣ -

There is a laydown slam in these cards, in fact a grand slam in hearts (the heart finesse worked). Only one pair bid it in a recent duplicate ... a number of players passed the aces-and-spaces hand and of course missed the slam.

But if that hand is opened 1♣, then responder is immediately slam-minded. Note how useful that ♣A is, even though it's sitting opposite a void.

Here's another classic "aces and spaces" boo-boo.

♠ Axx ♥ Axx ♦ Axx ♣ Axxx

4 x 4 = 16 = 1NT. The maths is inescapable. But people don't do it, thinking: I have 4 lousy tricks, why on earth would I contract for 7 tricks. So they open 1♣, partner responds 1 banana, and they rebid (I suppose) 1NT, totally mis-describing the strength of their hand. Partner of course does have some of those attractive picture cards.

Don't get trapped by the fallacy of "aces and spaces".

The tip of the month is:

Aces and spaces is a good hand

2017 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The fourth annual Victorian Awards for Excellence which recognises Victorian club members for their contribution to bridge were presented at the annual Victor Champion Cup Bridge Festival on Friday June 8th.

VBA President Ben Thompson expressed delight at the opportunity to recognise the people who give so much back to bridge. Awards for Excellence are presented in four categories:

Teacher of the Year: This year's recipient was **Jenny Date**. Jenny was instrumental in establishing the Essendon Bridge Club (now Moonee Valley) in 1979 when she and three other early members began beginner classes in the local area. While another teacher assumed responsibility for the lessons from the 1980's to around 2000, Jenny resumed the role as primary teacher of the club's beginners since 2000 and has been instrumental in both teaching and promoting bridge lessons for MVBC. Her efforts are one reason the club now boasts around 350 members.



Teacher of the year: Jenny Date

Volunteer of the Year: **Roger Gillard** (Geelong BC) has been a tireless volunteer for the club in his role as Masterpoint Secretary. Every club's MP secretary will know how much effort is involved with the role, yet Roger takes it a step further in producing and collating data for both the club's monthly awards and their annual awards.

Director of the Year: As Geelong BC's main director, **Mike Stokie** is a strong contributor

to the success of the Geelong BC. Not only does he direct many of Geelong's sessions, he also runs a short lesson before the supervised play sessions every second week. Mike has also been the main driver of Geelong's Seniors mini-congress, seeking grants from council and organising the event, as well as directing it.



Roger Gillard and Mike Stokie

Sportsmanship Award: This year we are delighted to present our first sportsmanship award to **Gary Ridgway**. Anyone who has ever played against this champion player who possesses over 5,000 masterpoints will appreciate how gracious and understanding he is to inexperienced players when they play poorly or fail to follow the rules. Gary seeks to be inclusive and make people feel that they can approach him.



Gary Ridgway, winner of Sportsmanship Award

The VBA congratulates all the above recipients and invites clubs to consider who from their ranks they will nominate for next year's awards.

THE COMMON THREAD
Bill Jacobs

The following two deals were played in a Butler event in Victoria many years ago.

They involve a common thread – see if you can find it.

Dlr: North ♠ A109432
 Vul: all ♥ A95
 ♦ AK
 ♣ J9

♠ KQ	N	♠ J76
♥ 2	W E	♥ J83
♦ Q109876532	S	♦ J4
♣ 2		♣ A10863

♠ 85
 ♥ KQ10764
 ♦ -
 ♣ KQ754

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
3♦	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West, fooled by the 5♣ cue-bid, led a diamond. Declarer won that and sportingly played ♣J, offering the defence their club ruff. East didn't shoot the sitting duck, but found a duck of her own. The final outcome was 1430 to North-South, for 13 imps.

Second deal, with N/S the top seeded pair in the event:

Dlr: North ♠ AK6
 Vul: nil ♥ 94
 ♦ A10853
 ♣ KQ10

♠ 109532	N	♠ J7
♥ J3	W E	♥ KQ10872
♦ J62	S	♦ Q94
♣ J65		♣ 32

♠ Q84
 ♥ A65
 ♦ K7
 ♣ A9764

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This time there was no excitement in the play. Declarer ruffed a heart for 12 tricks and a 10 imp gain, as no other pair had bid the slam.

At the end of the deal, East disgustedly said: "of all the pairs to play this hand against, we had to pick the one who was able to bid this slam!"

That is certainly a factor in Butler Pairs. To win such events, you usually need to play the right hands against the right pairs.

Anyway, look over the two deals again and tell me: what is the common thread?

The answer is this: whilst both East-West pairs were unfortunate to lose a slam swing, the two overcallers brought misfortune upon themselves *by failing to pre-empt*.

On the first exhibit, a nine-card suit needs more than a simple overcall. West should have bid 4♦ at her first turn. Where would that have left North? With little alternative but to raise to 4♥, and East-West would have achieved an average board.

On the second exhibit, if East doesn't have a natural pre-emptive 2♥ available to him, then he should change his system. With a decent 6-card suit, he need look no further than 2♥. South would have bid 3♣, North given a 3♥ cue-raise, and now South is endplayed into 3NT, like the rest of the field.

Both overcalling hands conform to the rule of 2-and-3 for a pre-emptive bid. The first hand, vulnerable, has 5 losers, so 4♦ should be safe enough. The second hand, non-vulnerable, has about 7½ losers, ample for 2♥.

Most bridge players don't pre-empt enough.

Victorian Bridge Association

2018 Victorian Day Time Match Point Pairs Champion of Champions

Each Affiliated Victorian Bridge Club may send up to 6 pairs to play in this state championship event. If your club has made no special arrangements to select pairs and you are interested, please ask your club's committee to enter you in this event.

Your club secretary has all details regarding this event.

A Red Master Point Event

to be held at the VBA Club Rooms

On the weekend of Saturday August 25th and Sunday August 26th

Cost \$180 per pair –including lunch each day and hospitality throughout
If you have any dietary requirements please get your club to tell us with your entry.

Main Prizes

A minimum of 30% of event entry fees will be returned as prizes.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the first 3 place getters and to the best placed women's, senior and mixed pair.

Will you be the Champion of Champions?

Clubs are requested to enter via email to the VBA by Monday 20th August 2018 – late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the organizer.

**Do you have less than 50 Masterpoints?
What about less than 500?**
If you answered yes, you are invited to
**learn from the experts at the 2018 Victorian
Pro-Am Development Day:
July 14 at the VBA**

see <http://vba.asn.au/teams-of-three/>
for more information

What is it?

Many of Victoria's leading players kindly donate their time to the development of the game by having a game with less experienced players. This fun event always has a vibrant atmosphere and provides an opportunity to play with a much more experienced player.

What's the format?

There are two divisions (under 50 MPs and under 500 MPs). You can enter as a partnership, individual or group of three. Teams will be formed with 1 (maybe even 2) expert players and 2-3 amateurs. Teams will then compete against each other throughout the day. If you haven't played teams bridge before, this is the perfect time to get started!

Why is this an opportunity for me?

Imagine a tennis fanatic having the chance to play with Federer. They would be nuts to pass it up! Playing with more experienced players is the quickest way to improve your game and not an opportunity that comes along very often.

What are the key details?

Saturday July 14
10.00 – 5.00
\$55 per player, including lunch
Entries must be submitted by July 11
Entries are restricted to players with <500 MP at May 31

Where do I find out more?

<http://vba.asn.au/teams-of-three/>



The 2017 Vic Pro Am Development Day bridge addicts - about 100 of them!