

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2018

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



I have to confess something. There is a new form of bridge in my life and I'm loving it!

The level crossing near the VBA was removed in June after a year of works removing a stretch of nine level crossings on the Dandenong line. I used to dread going to the VBA anywhere near peak hour because Poath Rd had Melbourne's most-closed boom gates during peak hour. And getting stuck waiting for TWO trains to pass on my way home at night from bridge was just plain annoying!

Surprisingly, I've found traffic on other roads kilometres away from the train line have improved as well.

The OTHER new form of bridge in my life is a canapé relay system I'm learning for a tournament next month and I'm having a lot of fun with that too. Basically, we open a 4-card major before a "side" 5 card suit to clear the path to the premium major suit contracts. Surprisingly, I'm finding benefits in getting to minor suit fits too.

Whether you're doing something serious like building public infrastructure or something fun like playing bridge, there are a lot of ways to skin a cat and it's not always obvious what all the costs and benefits of any particular approach will be. In bridge there's

always something new, and that's a big part of why I'm still hooked on bridge after more than 30 years.

If you're feeling a bit frisky as we head towards spring, why not try a new bidding idea? Go to an expert talk, or ask your opponents about the strangely effective convention they just wheeled out against you. It's fun, and unlike rail works, cheap!

ANC TEAM SELECTIONS

The Match & Tournament Committee can confirm the following structure for the selection of the 2019 Open, Women and Senior ANC Teams to be held in Melbourne next year.

The Open Team will be selected via a four team playoff between the winner of the Pennant, the winner of the Butler Final (which will revert to a weekend) and two VQP teams. There will be a single pathway for the selection of the Women's and Senior teams, with a qualifying event at the VBA on Monday nights followed by a weekend final for both categories. The Open Butler final, and the Women's and Seniors playoffs will all include a place for representative pairs from each of the three country regions as before.

The M&TC are starting work on the 2019 calendar and when this is finalised the dates for the above events will be communicated widely. To help us prepare this early we are asking all clubs to advise Laurie Kelso of their requirements for 2019 by 20th August, where possible. This is the same date that nominations for the Champion of Champions event to be held at the VBA on August 25 & 26 are required. These should be sent to Andrew Macready-Bryan on email at andrewmb@vba.asn.au. Any queries on this event can be directed to him as well. We are looking forward to this event and hope as many clubs as possible can nominate participants.

The youth team selection remains the same as in 2018.

FOR STARTERS

Playing in a congress Swiss Pairs (IMP scoring), with everyone vulnerable, you pick up as dealer:

♠ A ♥ AK643 ♦ K984 ♣ J103

You open 1♥, and the auction proceeds as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	??

What is your call?

If you tend to be worried about crossing the street, you should pass. Otherwise, you would like to compete with this hand. You could bid 3♦ to show your second suit, but maybe your side is best off in clubs.

A double here should be a takeout double, showing shortage in spades and support for all the other suits. This is a much more useful treatment for the double than playing it as penalties, catering for a hand that would come up at most once in a blood moon.

You double, and the auction continues as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	D'ble
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Well, at least you have pushed them a level higher. You hope one higher than they can make.

Partner leads the ♥9, and you see:

	♠ KJ9													
	♥ J107													
	♦ QJ105													
	♣ 965													
♥9	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N			W		E			S			♠ A ♥ AK643 ♦ K984 ♣ J103
	N													
W		E												
	S													

You win the ♥K and declarer plays the ♥Q.

What now?

You should inwardly sneer at declarer's heart queen. It's surely fake news – partner is the one with short hearts. (As an aside, it's a big error to lead "top of nothing" with three cards in partner's suit.)

So a heart ruff is available – that's three tricks in with the trump ace to come. Where is the 5th trick?

The answer is almost certainly "clubs". The heart ruff can wait for a bit – you have the trump ace. If partner has the club king, you might need to lead a club now to establish the setting trick.

This is the full deal:

	♠ KJ9													
	♥ J107													
	♦ QJ105													
	♣ 965													
♠ 874	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N			W		E			S			♠ A ♥ AK643 ♦ K984 ♣ J103
	N													
W		E												
	S													
♥ 92														
♦ 632														
♣ K8542														
	♠ Q106532													
	♥ Q85													
	♦ A7													
	♣ AQ													

If you rush to give partner a heart ruff, declarer will be able to develop the diamonds to discard his losing club. But if you play a club now, South is doomed.

Points to remember:

- The takeout double is bridge's oldest and best convention. It is available in many auctions that are at a low level, not just when an opponent opens 1 of a suit. Here are notes from two world-class pairs' system cards:
"Almost all our doubles are for takeout."
 (Brink – Drijver, the Netherlands)
"Takeout doubles thru 7♥."
 (Hamilton – Rubin, USA)
- Sometimes, defences need to be planned.

BLACK MAGIC
Bill Jacobs

This magical hand was played in 1955 in Los Angeles. Can you work out what happened?

♠ 982	♠ 6	♠ AKJ1075			
♥ A103	♥ J54	♥ 973			
♦ KJ1043	♦ A652	♦ 87			
♣ 103	♣ A8765	♣ 94			
	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ Q43				
	♥ KQ86				
	♦ Q9				
	♣ KQJ2				

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All pass	1NT

West hit upon the brilliant lead of the ♠9 ... well perhaps East had hitched a little before passing the 3NT bid.

East sensibly played the ♠10 on this lead, to maintain communications with his partner, who would have any side entry.

It didn't help: declarer still made the contract, even though the defence did nothing clearly wrong.

How?

South could see he was doomed, in theory. But in practice, it was a different matter. He followed suit with a low spade from his hand!

Now look at the deal from East's perspective ... clearly partner has led from top of nothing. South must have started with ♠Qxxx, and wants to cut the communications between East and West. So rather than give declarer a spade trick, East switched to a heart.

West won with the ♥A and played back another spade. East won with the ♠K, but still thinking that declarer had ♠Qx remaining, played another heart.

Declarer took 5 clubs, 3 hearts, 1 diamond.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

They raise after partner's takeout double

nil vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	D'ble	2♥	?

Back in April, we looked at RHO bidding a new suit after partner's takeout double ... this month, RHO raises the opener.

The principles are similar. You can now pass with garbage: the scoring effect of the double has been cancelled. Bidding shows something, and in this auction, bidding a *minor* at the 3-level shows a bit more than just something.

Spades, on the other hand, is a suit you should be straining to bid: the last thing your opponents want to hear is your side competing in spades over their hearts.

Notrump bids remain natural, but of course you will need to have a very clear cover in hearts, the suit they have bid and supported.

Double is defined as "*responsive*", a word that means very little without further definition. Essentially, it's a takeout bid of its own. In this auction, you would bid spades if you have them, so very likely a double would indicate both minors and asks partner to choose one of them.

(However, in the auction 1♠ - D'ble - 2♠, the responsive double would leave all three non-spade suits open for business.)

Decide your bid as advancer with:

- (a) ♠ K10654 ♥ 9653 ♦ 95 ♣ 72
- (b) ♠ Q1065 ♥ 93 ♦ 95 ♣ KQ872
- (c) ♠ 65 ♥ QJ103 ♦ 952 ♣ AJ72
- (d) ♠ 65 ♥ 952 ♦ QJ103 ♣ AJ72
- (e) ♠ KQ87 ♥ 953 ♦ 92 ♣ AJ72
- (f) ♠ 65 ♥ K103 ♦ 92 ♣ AKJ872

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	D'ble	2♥	?

(a) ♠ K10654 ♥ 9653 ♦ 95 ♣ 72

2♠. This hand is a lot stronger than its 3 HCP would suggest. The auction tells you that partner has at most one heart, and you have a solid 8 or 9 card spade fit. What's more you will likely win a minor suit finesse or two. 2♠ is a must!

(b) ♠ Q1065 ♥ 93 ♦ 95 ♣ KQ872

2♠. Yes, even with longer clubs. A major scores more than a minor, and you are able to stay at the 2-level in spades. Moreover, suppose you bid 3♣ and they compete to 3♥ - will you then reveal your spades? It's hard to know. But if you bid 2♠ now, then *partner* will be in good shape to decide whether to compete further to 3♠.

(c) ♠ 65 ♥ QJ103 ♦ 952 ♣ AJ72

Pass. Double would not be for penalties, and 3♣ may be a dreadful contract. If you've lived cleanly, then partner will double 2♥ (still for takeout but showing extra strength) and you can pass that for penalties.

(d) ♠ 65 ♥ 952 ♦ QJ103 ♣ AJ72

D'ble. A responsive double, asking partner to choose a minor. If partner disobediently bids 2♠, then return to 3♣ to emphasize that it's the minors you're interested in, not spades.

(e) ♠ KQ87 ♥ 953 ♦ 92 ♣ AJ72

3♠. This is not totally comfortable, but you are just too strong to bid only 2♠, which after all is the bid you need to make on hand (a). If RHO had passed 1♥, you would have jumped to 2♠; well here you have to jump as well.

(f) ♠ 65 ♥ K103 ♦ 92 ♣ AKJ872

3NT. It pays to be optimistic. You see 6 clubs tricks (you hope!) and a heart stopper. That's 7. Good partners will provide 2 more. But in a club contract, the ♥K is worth diddly-squat.

CONGRESS RESULTS**Geelong Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 G. Bailey – K. Bailey
- 2 R. Gillard – M. Stokie
- 3 J. Coventry – M. Glover

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, D. Harley, D. Newland, D. Morgan
- 2 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel
- 3 D. Newlands, A. Robbins, G. Bailey, K. Bailey

Kattery Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 N. Ewart – D. Harley
- 2 P. Karol – G. Lovrecz
- 3 M. Callander – P. Corrigan

Gold Point Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Lawrence – L. Norden
- 2 A. Maluish – J. Mill
- 3 C. Parkin – B. Tang

Theodor Herzl Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 T. Ranasinghe – G. McRobert
- 2 C. Arul – T. Legge
- 3 J. Tunks – L. McKenna

Yarrawonga Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 K. French – V. Sanderson
- 2 R. Lawrie – G. Collis
- 3 K. Smith – M. Wallis

Swiss Teams

- 1 G. Nicholson, J. Barbour, F. Vearing, C. Arul
- 2 S. Collins, C. Chakravorty, T. Gariepy, B. Mill
- 3 C. Parkin, I. Wright, F. Symons, D. Upsall

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 13 (July 7)*

- 3 L. Griffiths – D. Delcourt (Bendigo)

Event 14 (July 22)

- 1 J. Kuiper – D. Anglim (South Gippsland)
- 2 G. Nicholson – J. Barbour (Phillip Island)

VBA Pro-Am Teams (Teams of 3)*Under 50 MP*

- 1 Sue Beckman, Karen Thompson,
Jennifer Matheson, Meredith Woods
- 2 Jilian Taylor, Barbara Love, Ros Davies,
Kim Frazer
- 3 Mike Rudman, Shan Rudman,
Janice Lewis, Helen Snashall

Under 500 MP

- 1 Shayne Wurf, Richard Fitzherbert,
Robert Jacobs, Bill Jacobs
- 2 Rick Gaylard, Peter Hooper, Tom Spall,
David Thompson
- 3 Anthea Gudge, Catherine Ng,
Roger Kenna, Ben Thompson

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS**RACV Congress**

Sunday 12th August, 10:00 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue RACV City Club, Bourke Room
Level 2, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne

Contact: RACV events, 9944 8876

Enter: email memberevents@racv.com.au

Traralgon Congress

Saturday 18th August, 11:30 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 19th August, 10:00 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Kernot Hall,
Princes Drive, Morwell

Contact: Marion Taylor, 0409 277 922

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Phillip Island Congress

Saturday 1st September, 11 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 2nd September, 10:00 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Newhaen Hall
Cleeland St, Newhaven

Contact: Don Stewart-Uden, 0400 815 353

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Ballarat Congress

Saturday 8th September, 11 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 9th September, 10:00 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Ballarat Bridge Club
cnr Eyre & Ripon St., Ballarat

Contact: Tim Woodley, 5342 4847

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Kate Cronk	Bendigo
Jane Keyte	Geelong
Tony Kimber	Berwick
John McMillan	Dendy Park
Barbara Phillips	Benall
Sandy Spencer	Berwick
Wendy Pratt	Yarra Valley

***State**

Anne Bell	Dendy Park
Prothiraj De Zoysa	Waverley
Ismael Gulec	Northern
Helen Hollingsworth	Yarrawonga
Marion Taylor	Traralgon
Anne Thomson	Benalla

National

Joanne Crockford	Rye Beach
John Delaney	Waverley
Susie Groves	Bayside
Faye Searle	Bendigo
Barbara Wilding	Waverley

***National**

Terry Dold	Sunbury
Doreen King	Traralgon
Matti Shub	South Gippsland

****National**

Philip Knightley	VBA
Alan Saultry	Berwick

Life

Lanny Chan	Moonee Valley
Margaret Copland	Macedon Ranges
Trevor Haley	Moonee Valley
Peter Karol	Rye Beach

Bronze Life

Dan Delcourt	Bendigo
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Silver Life

Piroska Ehrlich	Theodor Herzl
Anne Gooding	Waverley
Dianne Kleinhenz	Ballarat

Grand

Paul Edwards	Waverley
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In the spirit of the suggestion in Ben Thompson's Soapbox, we present:

SWITCHED RESPONSES TO 1♣

... best thing since sliced bread! It's a simple switcheroo that can be tacked on to any standard-based bidding system:

- 1♦: 4+ hearts, 6+ HCP
- 1♥: 4+ spades, 6+ HCP
- 1♠: 4+ diamonds, 6+ HCP

You still use "up-the-line" principles, making the cheapest *bid* available with several 4-card suits. This means you show a major in preference to diamonds. And with 6-11 HCP, always show the major before diamonds, irrespective of how many diamonds you hold.

The beauty of the switch (also known as transfer responses, but quite different to transfers after 1NT) is that it gives opener an extra bid:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♦ (hearts)
1♥	

1♥ shows precisely *three* hearts, and is forcing. This means that in this auction:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♦ (hearts)
1NT	

1NT denies three hearts. So there is no temptation for responder to return to hearts holding just a 5-card suit. Sweet!

With 4 card support for the major, you raise directly to the 2-level. For example:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥ (spades)
2♠	

2♠ shows 12-14 HCP and 4-card support.

All other opener's rebids after a 1♦ (=hearts) or 1♥ (=spades) response have the same meaning as if you weren't playing this scheme. After 1♣ - 1♦ (=hearts):

- 1♠: spades
- 2♣: long clubs, minimum hand
- 2♦: diamonds, extra strength (reverse)
- 3♥: 4-card support, extra strength, etc

After the "switch bid" is accepted

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♦ (hearts)
1♥	

1♥ shows exactly 3 hearts. Responder bids naturally from here, as follows:

- 1♠: I have 4 spades with my 4 hearts: maybe we have a 4-4 spade fit
 - 1NT: 6-9 HCP, only 4 hearts
 - 2♥: 6-9 HCP, 5+ hearts, confirming an 8+ card fit
 - 2NT: 10-12 HCP, 4 hearts
 - 3♥: 10-12 HCP, 5+ hearts
- etc

There are various other ways to play switched responses to 1♣, but this is the simplest to get started with. There's heaps of upside, particularly discovering 5-3 major suit fits, and hardly any downside.

After the 1♠ response (= diamonds)

This denies a major unless responder is strong enough to bid one later at a higher level. So opener should not strain to bid a major unless he is very strong himself. The major will have to be bid at the 2-level, and this constitutes a reverse bid.

If the opponents intervene

If 1♣ is doubled, then continue to play transfer responses. Nothing needs to change. A redouble is still available to show a generally good hand (10+ HCP).

For all other interventions, cancel the switched responses (although they can in theory still apply after a 1♦ overcall).

How to get started

There's nothing more to do than Just Do It. Agree with your partner to switch responses after a 1♣ opening.

You will have several 'forgets', spanning multiple sessions. The result when you forget will be laughable. So laugh, and after a time, you will not forget any more!

MY FAVOURITE SUIT COMBINATION
Bill Jacobs

Let's take last month's suit combination, and give it some context:

♠ A752
♥ Q2
♦ Q954
♣ K43

♣J led

N
S

♠ J8
♥ AK10984
♦ A873
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
		1NT*	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 15-17 HCP

You ruff the second round of clubs and draw trumps, discovering that East started with ♥Jx and West ♥xxx.

Clearly it all boils down to how you deal with MFSC in the diamond suit. Have a think about the bidding and play to date, and decide your line.

♠ A752
♥ Q2
♦ Q954
♣ K43

N
W E
S

♠ KQ93
♥ J5
♦ KJ6
♣ AQ85

♠ J8
♥ AK10984
♦ A873
♣ 6

Neither of the plays considered last month is likely to work. Having opened 1NT, East will have the ♦K sitting over the ♦Q. And it's probably not a doubleton, as East has already shown up with a doubleton heart.

The solution is a rare but beautiful device called the *intrafinesse*. The *intrafinesse* consists of an initial unsuccessful finesse to set up a later successful finesse.

South leads a low diamond from hand and when West plays low, inserts the ♦9. East wins with the jack and plays a black suit. Declarer then gets to dummy with the ♠A and plays the ♦Q, king, ace and, he hopes, ♦10. Bingo!

Is there no end to suit combinations missing the king and the jack?

... to be continued



About 100 keen 'pros' and 'ams' at the VBA's Pro-Am Development day on July 14

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.