

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## VALE SARA TISHLER



Sara Tishler, business woman, beauty queen and bridge player, passed away in the Epworth hospital on Thursday March 21 at the age of 82. In the bridge world, we knew her both as an enthusiastic player who represented Victoria in Open, Women's and Senior's bridge and as a passionate supporter and benefactor of the game. The main playing room at the VBA and the Women's Swiss Pairs at the VCC are both named after her.

Her favourite partner was Bob Richman, Australia's highest ranked player, who shared her delight in bridge and food. In mourning her, Bob said that he admired her ability in bridge to both trust and fear her partner's actions (his bidding!), and her dynamic and varied appetite at dinner afterwards.

Sara had a full and remarkable life away from the table. She was born Sara Fink in Bialystok, Poland, the doted-on baby daughter in a Jewish family that wisely migrated to Australia in 1933. Affectionately called Sarke, she always had a busy social life, apparently not completing her Matriculation exams because she had to leave early for a date!

She was crowned JNF beauty queen in 1947 and did some modelling. While working as a

kindergarten assistant at the new Mt Scopus College, she met Keith Tishler, whom she married in 1950. They had two daughters, Lynda and Carla, and Sara threw herself with typical energy and enthusiasm into her family life and the Jewish community.

Mothers rarely worked in those days, so Sara enrolled in a wide variety of courses and took up a remarkable number of hobbies. She learned about investing in the 1960s and was an active investor for the rest of her life. Before bridge, she was a regular tenpin bowler.

In the 1970s, Sara took a travel agent's course and also learned bridge. A real people-person, she was a natural and highly successful travel consultant for the next 20-odd years. Of course, there are always the occasional mix-ups in travel, none more challenging for Sara than the time her daughter Carla's future parents-in-law were detained in Johannesburg because Sara neglected to mention that they needed a visa.

Her husband Keith died suddenly in 1986, leaving Sara a widow at just 56. The void was filled by bridge, travel, playing the stock market, and most importantly by her loving family, including 9 grandchildren. She was also very charitable, with Jewish causes particularly close to her heart.

Towards the end of her life, she was physically frail but still mentally sharp, always ready for the next party, and always with her signature zest for life. Even on the Monday before she died, she was researching backpacks for her oxygen tank to make it easier for her to travel to Adelaide for the Autumn Nationals in May.

Sara and her grandchildren treasured their many opportunities to share time with each other. Another of Sara's favourite bridge partners, Rena Kaplan, remembers how devoted Sara's family were to this remarkable woman, and that devotion is surely her greatest achievement.

**A SZÓNOKLATOT  
Ben Thompson**

We held a Club Presidents' day at the VBA early last month. Some of the country presidents drove for 4-5



hours to participate, which was fantastic. We worked on understanding the resources available to grow and support bridge in Victoria, and on developing our plans together to increase the number of players in Victoria from 5,000 to 10,000 over the next 5 years.

I visited 5 different clubs in March. I had a lot of fun playing with an old friend at Melbourne just before their temporary move for renovations, and also with Helen Fitzpatrick at the MCC bridge club. Helen has some innovative ideas for bridge and golf; expect to hear more about that.

For all the grand plans we have for bridge in Victoria, in talking to hundreds of players at many different clubs, almost everybody just wants to tell me how much they appreciate the 'be nice' message. It really is the simple things that matter most. One person told me their club doesn't have a "director", they have a "directorplease" (yes, one word). What a simple and effective concept!

Lock the Victor Champion Cup Festival (June 6 through 10) into your diary. It's Victoria's national bridge festival with gold point events for all skill levels. Visit the VBA web site for more details.

Next month I'll be talking about volunteering - something on which bridge is heavily dependent. Who are the great volunteers at your club?

Here's one simple bit of volunteering we can all do - get a friend or family member to learn bridge.



**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dlr: South     ♠ KJ963  
 Vul: nil        ♥ KQ7  
                   ♦ -  
                   ♣ J7543

♠ A542        N  
 ♥ 2            W        E  
 ♦ Q642       S  
 ♣ KQ109

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead ♦2 with some misgivings (such a bad suit). Partner wins ♦A and returns ♦9, covered by ♦10 and you win. You pause to consider your next card, and that is?

**Problem 2:**

Dlr: North     ♠ K954  
 Vul: all        ♥ J4  
                   ♦ 7  
                   ♣ KJ10864

♠ AJ872        N  
 ♥ Q9765       W        E  
 ♦ 1043        S  
 ♣ -

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Partner starts with ♣2, an unwelcome sight. Dummy's ♣J wins. Now comes ♠4. Can you see a worthwhile defence?

Solutions on page 11.



**Suit Combination of the month**

AJ32  
 □  
 K54

What is the best play for 4 tricks in this suit? What if you only need 3 tricks? Solution on page 12.



# Melbourne Bridge Weekend with **Joan Butts**

**3 - 6 May 2013 The Langham, Melbourne, VIC**



Joan Butts, National Teaching Coordinator and one of Australia's most popular and respected bridge teachers, invites you to join her at the wonderful The Langham, Melbourne. Featuring the very best in modern bridge techniques, the weekend will include lessons and games for all levels of player – beginner to advanced. No need to bring a partner, Joan will arrange one for you.



### 3 Night Package:

**\$1,095 per person**

Comprises two daily bridge lessons with Joan and games each afternoon and evening.

Includes:

- 3 nights accommodation (twin share\*),
- Breakfast daily.
- Welcome Cocktail Party.
- Victory Dinner at Melba Restaurant.

\*Single Room Supplement \$370.

### Daily Package:

**\$65 per person per day**

(without accommodation)

Comprises two daily bridge lessons with Joan and games each afternoon and evening.

The Langham, Melbourne is situated in the exclusive Southbank precinct and offers stunning views of the Melbourne city skyline. Ideally located near the National Gallery of Victoria, Federation Square, the Arts Centre and the Crown Casino, the five star The Langham, Melbourne is also surrounded by al fresco cafés, restaurants and boutiques. Combining personalised service, spectacular food and a luxurious atmosphere, why would you want to stay anywhere else?

**For bookings and more information on Joan's future bridge events contact Cove Travel:**

**Tel: +61 7 5577 9211 or [www.covetravel.com.au](http://www.covetravel.com.au)**

All bridge, packages, airfares, transfers and other travel arrangements available exclusively through Cove Travel.

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[www.covetravel.com.au](http://www.covetravel.com.au)

Email: [info@covetravel.com.au](mailto:info@covetravel.com.au) Fax +61 7 5577 9928  
Mobile service available by appointment  
Jabiru House, Masthead Way Sanctuary Cove, QLD 4212



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**FOR STARTERS**  
**Bill Jacobs**

In a Swiss teams event, you hold:

♠ 3 ♥ A9632 ♦ AJ5 ♣ Q732

Everyone is vulnerable and RHO as dealer opens 1♠. What's your call?

There are a few options. Pass is not a 4-letter word and you are allowed to do that. You could overcall 2♥, or make a takeout double, a bid permitted by your shape (short spades, support for every other suit).

Pass is a bit timid, with a decent hand like that. 2♥ on the other hand is a bit brave, because your heart suit is poor. Double is a safer way to enter the auction, leaving all three unbid suits open. The downside for double is that it doesn't get across the 5-card heart suit.

You decide to double, and the auction continues apace:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♠	D'ble
2♠	D'ble	4♠	?

What is partner showing you with his double, and what do you bid now?

Partner has made a *responsive* double, which is defined as a double of a raised suit after an initial takeout double. A responsive double shows values and a willingness to compete further, but unsure which suit to compete in. It tends to suggest minor suit length: with the unbid major, partner can simply bid it himself.

As for your bid, you really have nothing you want to say here, so should pass. The auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♠	D'ble
2♠	D'ble	4♠	Pass
Pass	D'ble	Pass	?

Another double! What's this one all about?

This is a good old-fashioned penalty double. Partner doesn't think they can make 4♠. Let's hope he's right.

Your lead.

Nothing stands out, but partner's final penalty double sends a strong message. He clearly has some high cards, and the main threat to your defensive prospects is that declarer will do a lot of ruffing: in particular that dummy will get ruffs. Your plan should be to cut down this ruffing power by leading a trump.

You lead your ♠3, and see this:

	♠ Q1054
	♥ QJ84
	♦ 10842
	♣ 8
♠ 3	
♥ A9632	
♦ AJ5	
♣ Q732	

	N	
W		E
	S	

The first trick is ♠3, ♠4, ♠6, ♠A. Declarer now leads ♥7. Your play.

Play low. If declarer has ♥K, you will make your ♥A later. But if partner has ♥K, you want to let him win it, so he can play a second trump.

The full deal:

Dir: East	♠ Q1054	
Vul: All	♥ QJ84	
	♦ 10842	
	♣ 8	
♠ 3		♠ 76
♥ A9632		♥ K105
♦ AJ5		♦ Q973
♣ Q732		♣ KJ65

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AKJ982
♥ 7
♦ K6
♣ A1094

Your side's spade attack limits declarer to 9 tricks: 6 spades, ♣A and two club ruffs in dummy. If you deviate from this defence in any way, declarer will make, potentially with an overtrick.

*Points to remember:*

- Double is the most versatile bid in modern bridge. It can have so many meanings. On this deal we saw three of them: the takeout double, the responsive double and the penalty double. Navigating your way through the various uses of double can be quite challenging!
- When the opponents sacrifice at a high level, it is usually right to lead a trump, aiming to cut down on declarer's ruffing power. This auction was not exactly sacrificial (your side hadn't bid anything yet), but partner's final double told you that there were high cards to protect, and therefore the trump lead was indicated.

One of the downsides of a singleton trump lead is that it can help declarer pick up any of partner's trump honours with finesses. This is not really the case on this deal, because declarer will have listened to the auction and knows that you will have spade shortage.



### RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

#### State

John Evans	Kings & Queens
Lillian Sealy	Bayside

#### \*State

Phillip Appelboom	VBA
Faye Bell	Geelong
Bart Verdam	Northern

#### \*National

Heather Scott	Geelong
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#### Life

Lorraine Parker	VBA
Alex Smith	Ballarat
Frank Vearing	Macedon Ranges

#### Silver Life

Geoff Whiting	Bayside
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#### Gold Life

Cheryl Buchanan	Waverley
Mary Allison	VBA

#### Grand

David McCrae	Yarra Valley
Lyndall Shaw	Whittlesea
Peter Shaw	Whittlesea

Congratulations to **Simon Hinge**, who, playing in partnership with Kim Morrison, took out a rare double: winning both the Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs and then the Australian Open Swiss Pairs last month in Hobart, both by relatively comfortable margins.

### TEST YOUR BIDDING

In this new segment, you will be presented with one auction and six hands to bid. You are playing Standard American: 15-17 point 1NT, 1♥ and 1♠ openings promise a 5-card suit, 1♣ and 1♦ openings could be on a 3-card suit.

#### After a 1-over-1 suit response

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
?	

Partner's 1♥ response shows at least 6 points and at least 4 hearts. It doesn't really tell you much: partner could have 6 points or 20 points, 4 hearts or perhaps as many as 7 hearts. Your job is to find the bid which describes your hand best.

With minimum high-card points, about 12-14, you make a low rebid: a raise of partner to the 2-level, rebid your suit at the 2-level, bid a new suit below the level of 2 of your first suit, or bid 1NT with a balanced hand.

With stronger hands, 15 or more points, you make a higher rebid to show your strength.

What is your rebid on each of the following?

- ♠ J954 ♥ 6 ♦ A92 ♣ AKJ43
- ♠ J87 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ104 ♣ AJ32
- ♠ A10 ♥ KQ92 ♦ J2 ♣ AQ865
- ♠ AK4 ♥ Q76 ♦ AJ3 ♣ KQ108
- ♠ 104 ♥ A3 ♦ K65 ♣ KQ10762
- ♠ 4 ♥ AJ3 ♦ A652 ♣ A10542

Solutions over page.

### TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

You	Partner
1♣	1♥
?	

(a) ♠ J954 ♥ 6 ♦ A92 ♣ AKJ43

1♠. There is no reason why you shouldn't show your second suit at a low level: partner could easily have 4 spades, and finding a major suit fit of at least 8 cards in the combined hands is one of the main objectives of bidding.

(b) ♠ J87 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ104 ♣ AJ32

1NT. With a balanced hand of 12-14 points, lacking 4-card support for partner, rebid 1NT. Worried about the weak spades? You shouldn't be: it's much more important to get the general nature of your hand across to partner, and any other rebid would be a major distortion. In particular, don't rebid 2♦, which is a *reverse* bid (a new higher suit at the 2-level) and shows extra strength. More about reverses another day.

(c) ♠ A10 ♥ KQ92 ♦ J2 ♣ AQ865

3♥. 15-17 high-card points and 4-card support for partner. Give a jump raise to indicate both strength and heart length.

(d) ♠ AK4 ♥ Q76 ♦ AJ3 ♣ KQ108

2NT. A jump to 2NT in this auction shows 18-19 points and a balanced hand. Remember that with 15-17 points, you would have opened 1NT in the first place, so this jump shows specifically 18-19 points.

(e) ♠ 104 ♥ A3 ♦ K65 ♣ KQ10762

2♣. 12-14 points and long clubs.

(f) ♠ 4 ♥ AJ3 ♦ A652 ♣ A10542

2♥. Normally you want to have 4-card support to raise partner's suit, but this hand is a square peg fitting into a round hole. A 2♣ rebid would indicate a better suit than this. And as we saw in hand (b), a 2♦ rebid shows more strength. The 3-card raise is a least-of-evils choice: your spade singleton may be useful to partner in a heart contract.

### BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE Ian McCance

#### The paper bag trick

*The common cormorant or shag  
Lays eggs inside a paper bag  
The reason you will see no doubt  
It keeps the dreaded Lightner out*  
(modified after Christopher Isherwood)

The 2012 Victorian Open Teams (Pennant) was won by Bill Jacobs' team by 4.5 IMPs. This deal from the final brought them 15.

Dlr: North	♠ KJ10542										
Vul: nil	♥ 102										
	♦ -										
	♣ J9763										
♠ AQ873	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <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		♠ 9
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ KQ	♥ AJ98754										
♦ KQ4	♦ A1065										
♣ Q84	♣ K										
	♠ 6										
	♥ 63										
	♦ J98732										
	♣ A1052										

West	North	East	South
	2♠	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

\* first or second round control

South not unreasonably led his singleton ♠6 and the slam was made. We notice that it breaks if a diamond is led, or ♣A followed by a diamond.

North missed an opportunity by failing to double 6♥. Most tournament players are familiar with the Lightner Double, an out-of-the-blue double of a slam made with a void, calling for partner to lead a long suit. It's the sort of convention that rattles around at the bottom of your kit of tools and perhaps out of sight is out of mind: it has its virtues.

The auction was similar at the other table; Jacobs, unable to open 2♠, chose 3♠.

West	North	East	South
	3♠	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	D'ble	All pass	

The Lightner Double attracted a suit-preference  $\heartsuit$  2 lead from Ben Thompson, and Jacobs ruffed twice for +300.

The paper bag trick is to remove the slam to notrumps, and we see that here it would have prospered, since West (declaring) has a double guard in spades.

Which partner should remove? East can't be sure what is going on. Perhaps partner took him for a first control in clubs and 2 aces are missing. West, who knows only one ace is missing, is better placed. However if the defence holds both  $\clubsuit$ A and  $\clubsuit$ K, 6NT will fail when partner's void in clubs ensures 6 $\heartsuit$ .

In my view a Lightner Double should always be removed. The ship is doomed and a life-boat, however precarious, is available. Of course 6NT may fail by several tricks, but that is with the Gods of the Dealing Machines. Here West's  $\clubsuit$ Q would limit any down-tricks.

$\spadesuit$     $\heartsuit$     $\diamondsuit$     $\clubsuit$

**PANACHE - XXVI**  
**Ben Thompson**

I played at Melbourne Bridge Centre, one of Victoria's oldest bridge clubs, on a balmy Tuesday night last month with an old work friend, Kate Gibson. Kate is a banker, and showed a banker's restraint and risk management on this hand.

Dir: West	$\spadesuit$ J109										
Vul: all	$\heartsuit$ J872										
	$\diamondsuit$ KQ965										
	$\clubsuit$ K										
$\spadesuit$ 7643	<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		$\spadesuit$ AK2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
$\heartsuit$ K9		$\heartsuit$ 4									
$\diamondsuit$ A743		$\diamondsuit$ J1082									
$\clubsuit$ 1085		$\clubsuit$ AQJ96									
	$\spadesuit$ Q85										
	$\heartsuit$ AQ10653										
	$\diamondsuit$ -										
	$\clubsuit$ 7432										

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	All pass	

Most of the field played this hand N/S in hearts, although you might guess when you see dummy that a few pairs would snag it in a minor E/W, or maybe even notrumps.

Kate got the helpful  $\diamondsuit$ A lead and did what you're supposed to do when you see dummy ("Thank you partner"). This was matchpoints, so usually you're looking for every extra trick. However, when you're ahead of the game, it's often worthwhile trying to protect that lead.

Here, the  $\diamondsuit$ A lead gave Kate several useful pitches via the  $\diamondsuit$ KQ, so she could easily make 3 $\heartsuit$  if she only lost 2 spades, 1 heart and 1 club. She was fortunate that she didn't have to worry much about scoring club ruffs in dummy. On a black suit lead, you have to ruff some clubs and might even lose a spade ruff on an unlucky day.

Since she was ahead, Kate didn't try to ruff a club to dummy to take the heart finesse. Instead she just put the  $\heartsuit$ A on the table and went about her business. Even though the opponents grabbed their  $\spadesuit$ AK as quickly as manners would allow, Kate was able to bank her 3 $\heartsuit$  contract without any trouble. That scored a very healthy 85% when the only other declarer to make 9 tricks in hearts was one off in 4 $\heartsuit$ .

The declarers who tried the heart finesse in search of extra tricks came up a trick (or two) short when West could play one back and restrict the club ruffs. That was whether they did it themselves, or in response to East putting one through when they won the  $\clubsuit$ A.

If the heart finesse had worked, Kate would still have scored about 70% but the pairs that tried it on this layout scored 55%. It sounds small, but it all adds up, just like interest.

Expert aside: West should really have made a negative double of 1 $\heartsuit$ . When you have spades in a competitive auction, it's important to mention them if you can, even if you have to stretch to do it.

**The takeaway**

Greed is not always good! Sometimes just making your contract at matchpoints is a good idea.

## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

### Traralgon - South Gippsland interclub

Traralgon and South Gippsland have begun a history of Interclub matches between our 2 clubs. The first Tuesday in March is played at Traralgon and the first Tuesday in May is held at Meeniyah. The original idea was to foster good relations between our neighbouring clubs and to encourage our newer players to attend Congresses.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Interclub was played on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Traralgon's rooms. There were 22 players from South Gippsland, 33 players representing Traralgon and 1 player from Noosa (formerly Traralgon). This is a great effort from our South Gippsland friends as it is about 200 km travelling for the day. Some of the players representing Traralgon also drove over 100 km. It shows the enthusiasm that country players have for the game and the esteem that this event now holds.

All players were welcomed with traditional country hospitality including sandwiches, slices and buttered bun. With 14 tables we played a skip mitchell with 2 boards per round. A BYO lunch was eaten at the table. Bridge then continued followed by more food for afternoon tea. We had a "secret percentage" prize for both N/S and E/W. Overall it was a very enjoyable day cementing the friendship between our clubs.



Michael Zarb and Anne den Houting (Traralgon)

### Warrnambool Bridge Club

The club published its inaugural newsletter in February – well done to them for getting it going. Next step is a website, so we can all download it and read it at our leisure!

### Lakes Entrance BC celebrates Anne den Houting's service

Anne joined Lakes Entrance in 1995 and in a very short time she was helping to teach and encourage new members.

Anne served as President and Vice President and was always one of the willing helpers whenever little extras were asked for. If you needed flowers or sandwiches Anne always volunteered: she is a naturally giving person.

Anne has fostered many new learners over the years: more than 30 current players, including 7 of the 8 committee members – a fine example of how her willingness to work for her club has been fostered in her students. As a further example of Anne's commitment: when Julie Farmer first started to play, Anne would travel to Metung to play with her at the social club, giving Julie the confidence to start at Lakes Entrance.

Congratulations on your fine teaching Anne, our Club survives because of you.



(l-r) Julie Farmer (Lakes Entrance BR President, Anne den Houting, Pam Dingwell (ERBA President)

### Ballarat wins the Ashes!

You might think this is a cricket game report; no it's much more serious. This is about an annual friendly Pairs event between Bendigo and Ballarat. The 2013 match took place in Ballarat on Sunday 17th March and Ballarat retained the trophy. Bendigo is suffering a bit of a losing streak as this is now the third time in a row that Ballarat has won.

A great day out was had by all, with 14 pairs competing on behalf of the Ballarat Club and 8 pairs from Bendigo, which does give the impression that everything was in Ballarat's



favour – home turf, more players etc, and the overall team win attested to this.

Overall winners of the day were Ballarat pair Denise Newland and Alex Smith, and other prizes went to best Bendigo pair Nimal Weerasinghe and Lorraine Griffiths, best Ballarat pair (not overall winners – you can't get two prizes in this competition) was Diane McBeath and Helen Dolan. Runners up from each team were Bendigo's Adrian De Silva and Bob Seedsman and Ballarat's Jimmy Zhang and Kaye McFarlane.

Best overall improved from morning to afternoon sessions was Bendigo pair Sylvia Watson and Lorraine Dullard.

Thank you to Ballarat for hosting this year's event and we are looking forward to winning the Ashes back next year in Bendigo.

- Liz Haywood, president Bendigo Bridge Club



## RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

### Dendy Park Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Adams – A. Bach
- 2 T. Chao – P. Chang
- 3 J. Reynolds – P. Cork

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Thompson, B. Thompson, A. Braunstein, R. van Riel
- 2 L. Gold, E. Hardy, S. Klofa, R. Gallus
- 3 H. Flanders, J. Crafti, D. Carter, G. Carter

### Rye Beach Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 L. Shaw – P. Shaw
- 2 A. Bach – J. Evans
- 3 S. Klofa – C. Schwabegger

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, C. Schwabegger, K. Frazer, B. Geyer
- 2 L. Shaw, P. Shaw, B. Turner, N. Grigg
- 3 J. Evans, A. Bach, K. del'Monte, M. Kelly

### Donald Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 H. Lovegrove – P. Bailey
- 2 H. Keefe – M. Yuill
- 3 D. Read – G. Read

### Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Read, G. Read, L. Lovegrove, P. Bailey
- 2 M. Yuill, H. Keefe, P. Yuill
- 3 B. Evans, F. Symons, S. Watson, D. Upsall



## 5 QUESTIONS WITH PAM DINGWELL

Pam is our newest VBA councillor and also the current ERBA president. We asked Pam a few questions to get to know her better.



*1. How did you get started playing bridge?*

I was introduced to bridge by a neighbour I walked with each morning.

*2. What are your hobbies outside bridge?*

I am a jack of all trades but master of none. I enjoy gardening, sewing, knitting and making my own sauces and preserves. I also enjoy my family including my three grandchildren and look forward to my fourth arriving safely in July.

*3. What is your home club?*

My home club is Lakes Entrance, a small happy club, but I also play in surrounding clubs Paynesville, Bairnsdale and Sale. All good strong clubs.

*4. What are your goals as a regional representative for bridge in your region? Across the State?*

My goal personally on the state board is to learn as much as possible about the workings of state bridge, contribute to the well-being of state bridge and to keep our regional clubs well informed of any opportunities to make bridge better in our region.

*5. What would you like to achieve on council this year?*

I would like to keep up the good work our previous reps have established and continue to make ERBA a strong voice in state bridge.

## COMING EVENTS



- Would you like to play against players from around the state?
- Would you like to play from the comfort of your own house?
- Would you like to learn how to play online in a fun and friendly environment?
- Would you like an opportunity to play against people of a similar skill level?

Then the Victoria Cup is for you!

This brand new teams event will start in July. You can put together a team from anywhere around the state and play in a division to suit your skill level; under 10, under 50 masterpoints and also open. Keep your eyes out on the VBA site and in next month's bulletin for further information.

### Victor Champion Cup

Come along and play in Victoria's premier event, the Victor Champion Cup this Queens Birthday long weekend. This event is a great opportunity for players of all skill levels to play and enjoy the 5 day long festival.

If you haven't played in a national event before make 2013 your year! There are restricted and under 50 masterpoint categories and you can also choose to enter pairs and/or teams events. If you don't have a partner or teammates we can organise them using our partners page at <http://vba.asn.au/vcc>. Eligible Victorian country players will also be entitled to a \$10 subsidy per player per event

The VCC will again be held at the popular Bayview Eden on Queens Rd which is easily accessible by public transport or taxi from the city and situated near many food outlets. Parking is also available at the venue. A fee of \$10 applies on Thursday and Friday, but other days are free of charge.

## Youth Weekend

The Victorian Youth Bridge Club would like to invite bridge players under 40 years of age from all over Victoria to the Victorian Youth Club Training weekend. The venue for the event is the VBA clubrooms at 131 Poath Rd Murrumbeena.

The weekend provides an opportunity for players of all skill levels to improve their game and meet youth players from all over the state.

There is no cost to attend this event which is subsidised by the Victorian Youth Bridge Club and the Blaine Howe Foundation. This event would not be possible without the volunteer services of Andrew Mill, Ben Thompson, Frank Power, Laurie Kelso and many Victorian open players.

For further information or to register for this event email [vicyouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:vicyouthbridge@gmail.com) or call Laura Ginnan on 0411 694 248.

### 1 Day Bridge Basics Crash Course

Do your friends play?  
 Have you always wanted to learn?  
 Are you up for a new challenge?  
 Do you want a day of fun?  
 Do you want to meet new people?  
 Did you learn years ago but haven't played since?

Come along to the Victorian Bridge Associations 1 Day Bridge Crash Course. During this course you will have a fun day out, learn the basics of the world's greatest card game and meet new people.

Course Cost \$40  
 including lunch, course notes and booklet and 1 voucher to a supervised play session (the next step).

The Course will be held on Sunday April 14 from 10 a.m in our clubrooms at 131 Poath Road Murrumbeena 3163.

For further information or to sign up please call the VBA on 9530 9006 or email [lauraginnan@vba.asn.au](mailto:lauraginnan@vba.asn.au)

### Teacher Training (last chance!)

Joan Butts will be returning to Melbourne on April 6 and 7 to run a teacher training program at the VBA. Joan's 2011 program

was very successful and we hope to see all current and aspiring teachers attend the 2013 program. Even if you want to teach a small group of friends you should come along and learn the tricks of the trade. The best part is that it is free. For more information see the VBA website or email [lauraginnan@vba.asn.au](mailto:lauraginnan@vba.asn.au).

**Victorian Bridge Association**  
invites you to the

# 2013 Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs Championship

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 a.m.**  
**A Red Master Point Event**  
**Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso**  
**Convenor Kim Frazer**  
Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006



## COUNCIL NEWS

### ABF Free Membership Trial Concludes

Clubs are reminded that the ABF free membership trial which has been running for the past two years concluded on March 31st 2013. Feedback from the clubs had been that this hadn't been terribly successful in attracting new members to the game.

In light of the conclusion of this trial, the VBA will put some resources into the development of a new member brochure for use by clubs, and based upon feedback from the Club President's day, the existing VBA club kit will also be reviewed.

### Victorian seat on the ABF Council

Interested in becoming one of two Victorian representatives on the ABF Council? We are seeking nominations: this position is held for a 2-year period.

More details regarding the requirements of the position, nomination form and details of the voting process and timelines can be found on the VBA website under the Club Notices section of the VBA Document Library.



## SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

### Problem 1

Dir: South	♠ KJ963	
Vul: Nil	♥ KQ7	
	♦ -	
	♣ J7543	
♠ A542		♠ 108
♥ 2		♥ 1098643
♦ Q642		♦ A985
♣ KQ109		♣ 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q7
♥ AJ5
♦ KJ1073
♣ A62

That reluctant lead gave you valuable information. Partner's remaining values are precisely zero. The only hope for 5 tricks is deceit, and ♣9 is ideal for that purpose - rising ♣J will not seem a sensible option and declarer might decide that his best hope is that it is from a doubleton and plan to take the second round.

### Problem 2

Dir: North	♠ K954	
Vul: All	♥ J4	
	♦ 7	
	♣ KJ10864	
♠ 106		♠ AJ872
♥ A108		♥ Q9765
♦ KQ62		♦ 1043
♣ Q932		♣ -

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q7
♥ K32
♦ AJ985
♣ A75

The answer is "not immediately". Even if declarer seems likely to have 6 tricks in clubs, there is no good reason to rise ♠A. If he has both red aces that's an unavoidable 9 tricks, but why hurry? As long as you play low, careful defence will be sufficient.

## MATCH & TOURNAMENT NEWS DAVID MORGAN

### Butler Trials – change of format

Owing to the unexpectedly large number of pairs who contested stage one of the Butler trials and were unable to contest stages two and/or three, the Match and Tournament Committee (M&TC) was forced to alter the format of the event, combining stages two and three. We regretted the late notice but the number of unavailable pairs made running stages two and three, as originally scheduled, impractical.

The M&TC will be examining what changes, if any, are required to avoid a repetition of this problem. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them to me, David Morgan, at [badm@bigpond.com](mailto:badm@bigpond.com) or talk to one of the other members of the M&TC.

### New Victory Point scales coming!

The World Bridge Federation has introduced new scales for converting results in IMPs to Victory Points. The VBA will be adopting these for all IMPs-scored events from the beginning of May. These new scales are the result of years of detailed research, in which Australia's Peter Buchen (a former professor of applied mathematics at the University of Sydney) played a key role.

The scales are designed to reward teams for winning and avoid the problem of having a band of IMPs scores associated with each victory point result. They may look a little more complicated but are intended to lead to fairer results. Keep your eye out on the VBA website for an interview with Peter Buchen in which he answers some of the questions about the new scales and explains what they achieve.



## RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

### Open Butler Interstate – Stage 2

- 1 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 2 J. Fust – E. Samuel
- 3 P. Schroor – D. Sheather

### Thwaites Mixed Pairs

#### *Final*

- 1 L. Ginnan – P. Hollands
- 2 E. Matheson – H. Blakeman
- 3 F. Beale – R. van Riel

#### *Plate*

- 1 J. Lawrence – K. Nainanayake
- 2 V. Daly – M. Adams
- 3 D. Selwyn – M. Granovski

#### *Unmixed Pairs*

- 1 A. Czapnik – D. Harley
- 2 F. Halmos – J. Hall
- 3 L. Hickman – P. Corrigan

### Victorian Master Teams

#### *Section A*

- 1 S. Klofa, R. Gallus, H. Snashall, R. Berlinski
- 2 B. Lindsay, T. Kay, M. Yuill, N. Ewart, G. Lovrecz
- 3 A. Talbot, M. Obenchain, S. White, M. McNanamny

#### *Section B*

- 1 K. Hoff, J. Hoff, P. Corrigan, L. Hickman
- 2 R. Rosenberg, B. Rosenberg, S. Pick, G. Pick
- 3 K. Trolland, C. MacQuarrie, P. Nolan, M. Porter



### Suit Combination of the month

AJ32



K54

To take 4 tricks, you need to hope that LHO has exactly Qxx. Cash the king, and play towards the AJx, finessing. Crossing your fingers may help.

For three tricks, your chances are better. If you make the same play as before (king then finesse), then if the suit is 3-3 or LHO has the queen, you will get at least three tricks.

But you can improve on that. Cash the ace first, then play the king and lead a third round towards the Jx. This will keep all your original chances, and also garner three tricks if RHO started with Qx.