

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAM OVERSEAS: ATLANTA & WUHAN

The highlight of August was undoubtedly the performance of Australia's youth team in two major international events. First they took out the Silver Medal in the 3rd World Youth Championships in Atlanta; then they went one better winning the Gold Medal at the 13th Asia-Pacific Youth Championships in Wuhan, China.

The team was Ellena Moskovsky – Lauren Travis, Justin Howard – Peter Hollands and Max Henbest – Nathan Howard. NPCs were Ishmael Del Monte in Atlanta and Grant Kilvington in Wuhan. Five of the six players are from Melbourne, Lauren Travis is from Adelaide.



(l-r) Peter, Max, Justin, Nathan, Lauren, Elle

The team narrowly qualified for the semi-finals in Atlanta and then defeated Turkey in a pulsating match: see elsewhere in this bulletin for more details. The final was hotly contested, but the USA team ran out winners by 29imps.

The team followed up with another second place finish in the Board-a-Match teams: in this event, Turkey got its revenge with a win.

Next it was off to China for the PABF Youth Teams. 9 competing countries would play a double round-robin to decide the event. Australia defeated the strong Chinese team in the first round, but China then went on a winning spree through the rest of the event: when they played Australia in the final match

of the 2nd round robin, China led Australia by 8 VPs. Australia needed a 15 imp win to overtake them, and duly recorded a stunning 40 to 8 imp victory, winning the event by 6 VPs.

Here's a key opening lead problem for you to try from this match:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

What do you lead from:

♠ 5 ♥ 9875 ♦ KQ7642 ♣ K3

These results continue the run of hot form for Australian youth players, in particular those based in Melbourne. Of course youth players don't stay that way for ever (indeed Peter Hollands has just crossed the Rubicon) but there remains a fine crop of young and very young players in the state ready to take over the reins. At the state and national level, Victorian bridge has rarely looked to be in better health.



Victorian Bridge Association Victoria's Premier Teams Event Pennant 2013

A Gold Point Event

The Victorian State Teams Championship is open
to all players

Commencing Wednesday 11th September
Playing dates: 11th, 18th, 25th September
2nd, 9th 16th October

No Entry Fee - \$18 per person per session

Organise your team of 4, 5 or 6 players now

Phone entries - 9530 9006 or enter online

www.vba.asn.au

FOR STARTERS

Bill Jacobs

In a matchpoint duplicate, you hold:

♠ A5 ♥ AK832 ♦ Q1065 ♣ J7

You are dealer and the auction begins:

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

What does partner's 2♠ mean, and what do you bid?

That 2♠ bid is what is known as "fourth suit forcing". When your side has bid three suits, then the chances are that you will not want to end up having the fourth suit as trumps. Instead responder, who might be somewhat stuck for a bid, can bid the fourth suit, not as a natural bid but asking opener to do something intelligent.

On this deal, the intelligent thing to do is to show your stopper in spades by bidding 2NT.

The auction concludes:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

The lead is ♦3, and you see:

♠ J92
♥ J6
♦ K7
♣ AK8653
N
S
♠ A5
♥ AK832
♦ Q1065
♣ J7

You play ♦7 from dummy, RHO plays ♦8 and you win with the ♦10. Plan the play.

In notrump contracts, start by counting your top tricks. You have made one diamond and can see ♠A, ♥AK and ♣AK. That's 6 tricks in total: you need 3 more.

The simplest and most likely path to those 3 tricks is in clubs. If the outstanding 5 clubs divide 3-2 between West and East, then you can take 5 tricks in that suit, losing just one club trick in the process. That will bring your tally to 9.

So what do you do at trick 2?

Dummy has no likely entry in spades, hearts or diamonds, so in order to establish *and then run* the clubs, you must use the club suit itself as the entry. Therefore, you should lose your club trick immediately, leaving a second club in your hand to play over to dummy.

Play ♣J and follow low from dummy, whatever LHO plays. When you regain the lead, and assuming clubs divide 3-2, you can win all of dummy's remaining clubs.

The full deal:

♠ J92			
♥ J6			
♦ K7			
♣ AK8653			
♠ Q106		N	♠ K8743
♥ 54			♥ Q1097
♦ AJ932	W	E	♦ 84
♣ Q109		S	♣ 42
			♠ A5
			♥ AK832
			♦ Q1065
			♣ J7

Points to remember:

- After 3 suits have been bid, a bid of the 4th suit by responder says "do something intelligent". For more practice in Fourth Suit Forcing, see "Test Your Bidding".
- In notrump contracts, start by counting the tricks you can win with top cards. Then look for a way to bring the total up to what you need.

Bridge and Mind Sports Festival

Friday, 11 October

VBA

Keeping fit and active includes keeping your brain active.



The Victorian Bridge Association will be giving seniors the opportunity to explore a number of ways to keep your brain active when it hosts the Bridge and Mind Sports Festival.

With David Astle! (DA)

Highlights

Cryptic Crossword solving workshop with David Astle
 Swiss Chess competition
 Chess middle games
 Learn the World's greatest card game-bridge!
 Duplicate Bridge- for experienced players
 Give Go a try
 Board and strategy games for all levels including Chess, Scrabble and Grabble.
 Sudoku challenges
 Line Dancing
 Urban Bushwalking

Friday October 11
 from 10 am
 Venue: VBA.
ABF members save more than 20% on entry!
 RRP \$49,
 ABF members **\$39.**



VICTORIAN
 SENIORS
Festival
 IT'S
 YOUR TIME
 OCTOBER 2013



www.vba.asn.au/msf

VBA

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

I came across a great quote the other day from well-known American bridge columnist and author Frank Stewart –



“Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbor, winning Bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes”. In other words, “be nice to partner”!

Before the Australian Youth Team went away on their recent triumphant world tour (read more about it elsewhere), Bill Jacobs and I played a practice match against them. I was particularly struck by a hand where Lauren Travis (the only member of the team not from Victoria) found a difficult and dangerous ... and successful ... switch at trick 2 against me. I asked her later why she had done it and she said partner (Ellena Moskovsky) signalled for it and she trusted her partner.

That approach of thinking about partner’s problem and trying to help them solve it is the hallmark of expert players and expert partnerships. All 3 pairs on the Australian team work hard to do that and it showed in their great results.

Another thing that impresses me about them all is how nice they are at and away from the table. They are all aggressive bidders (a few very aggressive) and with 3 come-from-behind wins at crucial moments they showed they are also mentally tough. With their positive and polite manner, they show clearly that you can play a hard competitive game and still be routinely nice.

The 5 Victorians on the team are all regulars on the Congress circuit. When you play against them, you may find them putting you under lots of pressure in the bidding and cardplay, but I’m confident you’ll always find them friendly and engaging people. I’m equally confident about the future of bridge when we have young people of this calibre in the game.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Margaret Conn	Bendigo
Kevin Gunn	Bendigo
Janet Westbury	Yarra Valley
Judy Williams	Yarra Valley

*State

Delma Casabene	Whittlesea
Alison Feiner	Ocean Grove
Rob Gault	Bairnsdale
Hannah Martin	South Gippsland
Mark Miller	Geelong
Andrew Slutzkin	Moonee Valley
Dolores Thorpe	Bendigo

National

Kerry Delcourt	Bendigo
Barbara Hyett	Bendigo
Honor Middleton	Rye Beach
Janet Reynolds	Melbourne
Raine Vivian	Geelong

*National

Dan Delcourt	Bendigo
Patricia Dungey	Bendigo
Fred Eccles	Moonee Valley

**National

Alan Johnston	South Gippsland
Don Walters	Traralgon

Life

Glenis Lohr	Traralgon
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Bronze Life

Geoffrey Schaller	Yarra Valley
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Silver Life

Kate Bechet	Mornington
Betty Boyd	Geelong
Ruth Kingham	Waverley
Jennifer Savage	VBA

RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Pairs

Final

- 1 E. Samuel – J. Fust
- 2 G. Gaspar – S. Hinge
- 3 W. Jacobs – B. Thompson

Plate

- 1 K. Bailey – G. Bailey
- 2 D. Morgan – J. Stark
- 3 D. Smart – I. McCance

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: East	♠ 87						
Vul: all	♥ Q83						
	♦ AKJ7						
	♣ QJ65						
♠ KQ10943	<table><tr><td colspan="2">N</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">S</td></tr></table>	N		W	E	S	
N							
W		E					
S							
♥ J							
♦ 963							
♣ K82							

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

You lead ♠K, which holds, partner playing ♠2. How should you continue?

Problem 2:

Dlr: North	♠ KQ874						
Vul: E/W	♥ J932						
	♦ Q962						
	♣ -						
♠ 5	<table><tr><td colspan="2">N</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">S</td></tr></table>	N		W	E	S	
N							
W		E					
S							
♥ AK5							
♦ AJ754							
♣ Q1086							

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

You lead ♥A and partner plays ♥7 (standard count). You switch to your trump, won by South's ♠10. Declarer trumps a club, partner following ♣9, and dummy's ♥3 goes to partner's ♥4 and South's ♥10: you win ♥K. Plan your defence.

Solutions on page 9.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Suit Combination of the month

J5
□
AK732

Assuming plentiful entries to both your hand and dummy, what is the best play in this suit at notrumps? Solution on page 11.

COUNCIL NEWS**Victor Champion Cup 2014**

In 2014, the VCC will return to the Bayview Eden Hotel in South Melbourne which has proven to be a popular venue with all players. Hosting the event at this venue in the past two years has delivered a positive financial result for Victorian bridge and we hope to continue the association into the future. The VBA has appointed Neil Ewart and Kim Frazer as co-convenors for the event in 2014.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

TEST YOUR BIDDING**Fourth Suit Forcing**

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

As we saw in this month's For Starters, when your side has bid three suits and partner then bids the fourth suit, this is a forcing bid, and it is your job to then describe your hand as best you can.

Often partner is itching for you to bid notrumps if you have a cover in the fourth suit, so this is a priority. Alternatively you can show extra length in one of the other suits. Raising the fourth suit shows genuine length there: a three-suiter with 5440 or 4441 distribution.

How do you respond to partner's fourth suit forcing with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 6 ♥ J2 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ KJ876
- (b) ♠ - ♥ 1072 ♦ AKJ952 ♣ KQ105
- (c) ♠ 6 ♥ KJ5 ♦ KQ1042 ♣ A1052
- (d) ♠ Q6 ♥ 105 ♦ AJ432 ♣ AQ94
- (e) ♠ K62 ♥ 5 ♦ AK965 ♣ AQ94
- (f) ♠ 6 ♥ 972 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ A543

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

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

(a) ♠ 6 ♥ J2 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ KJ876

3♣. No heart stopper, but you do have 5 clubs and so far you have only shown 4. 3♣ strongly suggests the 5-5 shape.

(b) ♠ - ♥ 1072 ♦ AKJ952 ♣ KQ105

3♦. Here your extra length is in diamonds, and you can indicate this with a 3♦ rebid.

(c) ♠ 6 ♥ KJ5 ♦ KQ1042 ♣ A1052

2NT. This is probably just what partner is looking for. You have the heart suit under control and notrumps is a likely destination.

(d) ♠ Q6 ♥ 105 ♦ AJ432 ♣ AQ94

2♠. This bid involves an important piece of bridge bidding theory. 2♠ here is a "preference" bid and is often made with just a doubleton spade: it does not promise genuine spade support. With a distributional minimum opening with 3-card spade support, such as ♠ Qxx ♥ x ♦ AJxxx ♣ AQxx, you should directly raise 1♠ to 2♠ rather than bid the club suit.

(e) ♠ K62 ♥ 5 ♦ AK965 ♣ AQ94

3♠. By *jumping* in spades, you confirm genuine 3-card support and a good hand with more than minimum values. On this hand, you were quite right to rebid 2♣ rather than raise spades, because a direct 2♠ raise would be a big underbid, and a direct 3♠ raise would guarantee 4-card spade support.

(f) ♠ 6 ♥ 972 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ A543

3♦. What a nightmare. You don't have a stopper in the fourth suit and you also don't have any extra length in one of the other suits. You have to tell the smallest lie possible. Well, at least your 5-card diamond suit is a strong one, so it's only a little fib to rebid the diamonds, even though that suggests a 6-card suit.

THE KILLING LEAD

Dlr: North	♠ J10972		
Vul: all	♥ AK103		
	♦ AJ		
	♣ 85		
♠ 5			♠ AKQ863
♥ 9875			♥ QJ42
♦ KQ7642			♦ 83
♣ K3			♣ 6
	♠ 4		
	♥ 6		
	♦ 1095		
	♣ AQJ109742		

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

This was the penultimate hand of the PABF Youth Championships, Australia versus China. Lauren Travis had a tough opening lead to make. Leading a diamond is obvious, but which one? Normal strategy is to lead low, but is this a normal hand? She decided that there was a real chance that each opponent would have 2 diamonds: dummy was likely to be 5422 shape, and whilst declarer could have anything, a doubleton diamond to go with the 6+ clubs was certainly a lively possibility.

So she started with the diamond king, to avoid giving away a cheap trick if the opponents' diamonds were 2-2.

The ♦K lead was the killer. Lauren got back in with the club king, cashed ♦Q, partner signalling a doubleton. The spade switch was fairly obvious now, and the defenders cashed their 5 tricks for down 1. This gained 6 imps, when Peter Hollands and Justin Howard stayed in 3♣ (the auction was the same, with North declining to bid 3NT).

Had Lauren led a low diamond, declarer makes easily, for a loss of 10 imps.

It would have been lovely to report that this opening lead won the Aussies the event, but it was not so: even had they lost 10 imps here, they would still have won ... with a single imp to spare.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Ballarat Bridge Club Congress 2013

The Ballarat Bridge Club invites you to our 2013 Congress to be held in our club rooms (cnr Ripon & Eyre Sts Ballarat)

Director Martin Willcox

Saturday September 14th (Pairs)

Sunday September 15th (Teams)

Arrive 9.30am for 10am start

\$35 per player (lunch included)

To register: contact Tim Woodley

0353424847 or timwoodley@inet.net.au
or register online at bridgeunlimited.com



Successful Phillip Island Congress

The Phillip Island Bridge Club ran a most successful congress last month and wishes to thank all the attendees for supporting the event. Pictured right are Kim Frazer and George Lovrecz, winners of the Swiss Pairs event, and below are the Swiss Teams winners: Arie Meydan, Richard Moss, Dina Drury and Frank Powell.



Ishmael Del Monte Gippsland Tour

Australia's top player, Ishmael Del Monte, will be running a series of seminars in the Gippsland area at the start of September. Sessions will be run at Traralgon and Bairnsdale. He will also speak to a number of bridge-playing primary school students prior to the Bairnsdale session, and will take part in the normal duplicate bridge session at Bairnsdale in the afternoon.

Check out <http://tinyurl.com/q7a3p2v> for an interview conducted with Ishmael on local ABC radio.

Northern Bridge Club

Northern Bridge Club, based in Heidelberg, is one of Victoria's oldest clubs. It was founded in 1967, and was later run by Billie and then Eddie Karen (Billie Karen was a well-known radio talkback presenter on 3AW in the sixties.)

More recently, the club was owned and run by Roger Bond, an Englishman who emigrated to Australia as a child in 1950. Sadly, Roger passed away suddenly in January, and in his honour, the club conducted a 5-session Pairs Championship for the inaugural *Roger Bond Trophy*. This event was won in an exciting finish by Karin and Cliff Strahan (pictured), who narrowly defeated Larry Allender and Brian Morrow, with Cheryl Ogilvy and Rosemary Polya in 3rd place.



The club has a regular duplicate game on Tuesday evenings, and is planning to also start a session on Friday during the day. You can find out more about Northern Bridge Club by visiting the club's website at www.bridgewebs.com/northern.



BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE

Ian McCance

The Fork on a Plate

This is a deal from the 2013 US Bridge Championships. These select the USA teams for the 2013 Bermuda Bowl, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, Sept. 16-30.

Dlr: West	♠ Q63		
Vul: nil	♥ Q832		
	♦ J7		
	♣ AK74		
♠ AJ98		N	♠ 10542
♥ -		W	♥ 106
♦ Q63		E	♦ K9842
♣ Q109532		S	♣ 86
	♠ K7		
	♥ AKJ9754		
	♦ A105		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
D'ble	Pass	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

First of all, let's look at the final contract. 6♥ is no thing of beauty, missing an ace and without a suit to develop for discards. It has no hope if a diamond is led, but when West starts ♣10 there is a hope¹.

Can you see what is required?

Declarer can (and did) exploit the rare coup known as Morton's fork².

The term is used to describe situations where an individual has to choose between two equally unfavourable outcomes.

Here South has to arrange (after drawing trumps) to push a low spade through the opponent holding the ♠A. They would have the option of rising ♠A to ensure its trick, in which case declarer's two losing diamonds would go away on ♠Q and ♣K, or ducking the

spade in which case the next hand would win the trick and South's other spade would go away on ♠K: after which declarer could trump one diamond loser in dummy.

It seems that symmetry is frequently a feature of the Fork situation, the coup operating in either direction - declarer has to guess which defender has the missing ace. Not here, however. West's ill-advised double has handed the fork-wielder his contract "on a plate". Declarer leads low towards ♠Q.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

IMPROVING YOUR GAME: USING THE WEB

One of the hardest things in bridge is finding a way that works for you to learn and improve. The traditional approach to these questions is play more, read more and try to get games with players who are better than you.

The modern approach to learning and improving at bridge is to use technology and online resources. There are many software programs that you can purchase from bridge supplies shops but there are also many online resources. For example:

BridgeBase Online (BBO)
www.bridgebase.com

BBO is an online program that allows you to play bridge with people all over the world at any time! You can also watch competitions that are being played all over the world.

Bridge Blogs

Many players have blogging pages where they openly discuss the decisions that they faced at the table and their ideas on the game. Take a look at <http://www.clairebridge.com/blogs.htm> or <http://bridgeblogging.com/> to discover some of the blogs!

www.bridgewinners.com

Bridge winners is a site with a wealth of information including articles, forums, movies and games.

¹ South could always play low on ♣10 at trick 1 ...

² It is named for John Morton, who collected taxes for Henry VII in the 15th century. He argued that conspicuous consumption was evidence of wealth, and frugal behaviour was indicative of significant savings. In either case the individual could afford to pay up.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dlr: East	♠ 87			
Vul: N/S	♥ Q83			
	♦ AKJ7			
	♣ QJ65			
♠ KQ10943		N		♠ 62
♥ J		W	E	♥ A107652
♦ 963				♦ Q52
♣ K82		S		♣ 109
	♠ AJ5			
	♥ K94			
	♦ 1084			
	♣ A743			

Partner can have around 6 HCP at best, and they will need to be helpfully placed. Your only entry is ♣K, and this will likely be driven out as soon as declarer gains the lead. Can partner gain the lead while you still have ♣K? So fire out ♥J. Partner will realise things are desperate and win ♥A to return a spade for you. If partner's ace is ♣A the heart switch might not cost.

This play might seem a bit far-fetched, but in the semi-finals of the European Open Teams, 2013, two Wests found this switch.

One was Garozzo. Perhaps this helped! Facing a lesser partner East might have run ♥J (encouraging) hoping he started with ♥Jx. One West switched to a diamond. Declarer drove out ♣K and prevailed when ♥J dropped.

Problem 2

Dlr: North	♠ KQ874			
Vul: E/W	♥ J932			
	♦ Q962			
	♣ -			
♠ 5		N		♠ 96
♥ AK5		W	E	♥ Q874
♦ AJ754				♦ K83
♣ Q1086		S		♣ AK92
	♠ AJ1032			
	♥ 106			
	♦ 10			
	♣ J7543			

Partner would have no reason to signal extravagantly on the first round of clubs, so it must be that he started with 4 (or even

only 3). Declarer doesn't have a trump loser, and if he's allowed to trump four clubs he will come close to 10 tricks. At this point it is essential that the defence leads another round of trumps, and since you can't, your partner has to do it. You need to play partner for ♦K, and since you can see nine diamonds it will be too risky to cash ♦A before playing a low one.



Australian Youth Bridge Triathlon MELBOURNE

Fri Dec 6 - Sun Dec 8, 2013

Friday Night- BAM teams
Saturday- IMP Teams
Sunday- Matchpoint Pairs

\$40 entry
Great prizes and billets can be organised!

Melbourne will again be home to the 2013 Australian Youth Bridge Triathlon. There is no swimming, cycling or running at the triathlon but players do compete in three different versions of the game. The formats played include Board a Match, Matchpoint Pairs and Teams.

This is the perfect event for young players to come along and meet people from all around the country and take part in the challenge.

Entry is open to all players under 30 years old at 31 December 2013.

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club.

Entries can be emailed to vicyouthbridge@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW:
DECLARER PLAY AT BRIDGE
A QUIZBOOK
BY BARBARA SEAGRAM & DAVID BIRD

If you are a novice player who has just completed lessons, and perhaps are playing in Supervised Duplicates, this is an excellent vehicle for tuning up your declarer play.

The authors give the reader a repeatable process with which to plan the play of the hand. At suit contracts, you count your losers; at notrump contracts, you count your winners. In each case, you then develop a clear plan with which to reduce your losers, or increase your winners, to the number required.

For each of the 60 problems presented, you are taken step by step through the thinking process involved in planning the play: exactly what new players need to know.

Here is a typical example:

♠ A2
♥ 93
♦ J10542
♣ J652
N
S
♠ KQ54
♥ AKQJ75
♦ 76
♣ 7

You reach the aggressive contract of 4♥, and West leads the ace then king of clubs. How do you play it?

In a suit contract, count your losers: 1 in spades (you have the ace, king and queen, but your fourth spade is a potential loser), none in hearts, 2 in diamonds and 1 in clubs. That's 4 losers: you cannot do anything about the club and diamond losers, but what about the spades?

In spades you can cash the ace and king, then *trump* a small spade (your 4th loser) in the dummy. Here is the full layout:

♠ J9876	♠ A2	♠ 103
♥ 104	♥ 93	♥ 862
♦ Q9	♦ J10542	♦ AK83
♣ AK83	♣ J652	♣ Q1094
	N	
	W E	
	S	
	♠ KQ54	
	♥ AKQJ75	
	♦ 76	
	♣ 7	

The play has a few traps in it: there is no reason to cash the ♠Q before trumping a spade; and also you might as well trump the spade with ♥9 (not ♥3) to minimise the risk of an overruff. So this is one of the trickier deals in the book.

Having digested this book, you will be well equipped to tackle declarer play using a structured approach. Highly recommended.

... Bill Jacobs



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 Association's 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.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Cost: \$40, includes lunch, course notes and booklet, and a voucher to a supervised play session (the next step)

For more information please call the VBA on 9530 9006 or email lauraginnan@vba.asn.au.

RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Knox Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Day, M. Spurrier
- 2 C. Macquarrie, S. White
- 3 C. Anthony, B. Coling

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, D. Harley, R. Gallus, D. Goldner
- 2 K. Frazer, E. Hynes, G. Lovrecz, B. Geyer
- 3 A. Maluish, A. Mill, G. Bailey, K. Bailey

Melbourne Bridge Club Congress

Congress Pairs

- 1 H. Snashall, G. Collins
- 2 G. Lovrecz, E. Hynes
- 3 K. Muntz, K. Frazer

Yarrawonga Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Moss – A. Drury
- 2 N. Weerasinghe, D. Upsall
- 3 D. Clarke – M. Clarke

Swiss Teams

- 1 C. Schwabegger, K. Daws. A. Talbot, M. Callander
- 2 D. Thompson, J. Thompson, W. Leppard, M. McQueen-Thomson
- 3 R. Moss, A. Drury, J. Farr, S. Stewart

Dendy Park Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Keenan, D. Swabey
- 2 C. Chakravorty, C. Schwabegger
- 3 J. Adams, D. Middleton

Theodor Herzl Congress (take 2)

Sorry, we got this slightly wrong last month!

Congress Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – C. Lachman
- 2 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 3 S. Klofa – P. Fent

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 15 (August 3)

- 1 Sandy Ryan – Eric Ramshaw (Ballarat)
- 2 Dina Drury – Richard Moss (Phillip Island)

Event 16 (August 18)

- 1 Alex Smith – Denise Newland (Ballarat))

Suit Combination of the month

J5
 □
 AK732

Sometimes you have to lose a trick in order to gain a trick. This suit is a case in point.

If the outstanding 6 hearts divide 3-3, you will take 4 tricks in the suit whatever you do. But if they divide 4-2, you need to make use of dummy's jack. This involves finessing West for the queen - this doesn't look like a finesse position, but it is. Lead a low card from your hand: if West has the queen he will have to play it. You can later win dummy's jack, and then come back to your hand to take the remaining tricks.

Finesses come in all shapes and sizes: this is a position where you may actually lose the trick as you take the winning finesse.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: East ♠ AK96
 Vul: E/W ♥ 87
 ♦ 732
 ♣ Q872

N
S

♠ J
 ♥ AK10965
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AK1065

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All pass	

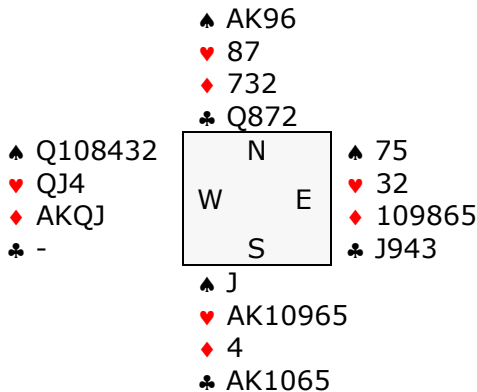
It is the last board of the semi-final of the World Youth Teams Championship. Trailing by 19 imps at the start of the set, you have had a very good set and feel you might be ahead at this point. So if you make 6♣, the final beckons ...

West leads ♦A and continues with ♦K. You ruff and lay down ♣A, but West discards a spade.

Plan the play. Solution over page.

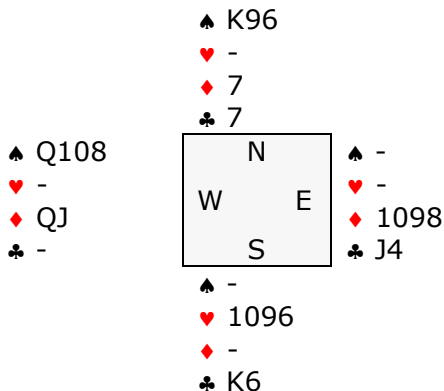
THE TWELFTH TRICK

Bill Jacobs



Did you call “low” from dummy and then start thinking? Sorry, you just lost the match.

That’s what happened to the Turkish declarer. Next he cashed the top hearts and played a third heart, which he had to ruff with ♣Q. Then came the ♣8, covered by Peter Hollands as East, declarer winning ♣10. Declarer went over to the ♠A and led dummy’s ♣7 in this position:



This time Hollands ducked and poor declarer was stuck in dummy, unable to get back to hand without establishing a trump winner for East.

But if declarer had unblocked the ♣7 on the first round of trumps, dummy would have had the ♣2 in the diagrammed position, and declarer could draw trumps. How sad!

The deal was no less exciting at the other table. Elle Moskovsky (South) and Lauren Travis (North) also reached the excellent 6♣ contract, but here the defence was different. The Turkish West took a top diamond, but

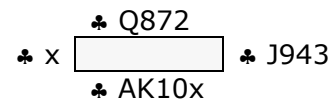
then found the brilliant switch to a spade. This took out one of dummy’s precious entries before declarer could discover the club break. Now when declarer played to ♣A, the one further entry to dummy (trumping a heart with ♣Q) would not be sufficient to pick up the trumps. Since Turkey was 10 imps ahead going into this final board, it appeared they would win the match.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the win. When Elle played a club off the dummy at trick 3, East put in the 9!! Now after a heart ruff with ♣Q, she could twice finesse East’s ♣Jxx. 6♣ making and 14 imps gave Australia the match at the wire.



Emotional scenes at the final scoreup

Why did East play that ♣9? He had clearly read books and knew about the deceptive play of the 9 from J9xx. He was envisioning this layout in the club suit:



Left to his own devices, declarer will pick up the clubs: it is a one-way finesse – he can only cater to J9xx on his right, not his left. But if you play the 9, then it opens up the possibility that it is singleton, and declarer has the (in this case losing) option of playing West for Jxxx.

Put not your faith in books!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan

“East-West can make a singular number of hearts but not a plural number.”

“East’s 3♥ bid on Qxxx showed great fortitude: personally I’d rather have fiveitude.”