

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs



2014 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP BRIDGE FESTIVAL



10AM DAILY- THURSDAY 5TH JUNE – MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2014

Bayview Eden Hotel 6 Queens Road, South Melbourne Victoria

SWISS PAIRS EVENTS

WOMENS, SENIORS, OPEN, RESTRICTED, AND <50 MP 5TH JUNE -6TH JUNE

SWISS TEAMS: OPEN & RESTRICTED

7TH JUNE –9TH JUNE

NEW FOR 2014 - WARM-UP WITH SPEEDBALL JUNE 4TH @8PM

An ABF Gold Point and Playoff Qualifying Points Event

For more details and to enter visit the website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

As I write, I can see autumn and summer juxtaposed through my window. Yellowing leaves next to full flowers next



to baring branches. It's reminded me of a curious thing about bridge clubs. In winter in Melbourne, table numbers drop somewhat at most clubs as people head north. But at golf clubs (it seems like every golf club has a bridge group) table numbers usually rise in winter. Apparently when the course or the sky is too wet, everybody heads indoors for bridge!

Bridge and golf are actually a natural fit, and I have many friends who are keen on both. Playing either well takes thinking and planning. You never stop learning at either game, with both regularly throwing up new

challenges. And both involve walking (I sit East-West a lot).

So with winter just around the corner, do your golf-mad friends a favour – give them something to do when the weather rules out golf, and get them to learn bridge! There are courses all around Victoria. At the VBA we're even taking our one-day beginners course "on the road" to country Victoria this year (aside - we haven't nailed down dates and locations yet, and we're open to ideas).

Of course, don't restrict yourself to golf nuts! Lots of people are looking for good clean indoor fun when the thermometer heads south.

You (yes, you!) are actually the number one source of new bridge players – the vast majority of bridge players learn because friends or family get them into it. If you're not sure where or when to send your friends, have a look at the VBA web site for our course dates, and also the course dates of many other clubs (another aside – the VBA is keen to promote every affiliated bridge club in Victoria, including their bridge courses – just send us the details).

Now is the perfect time to strike!

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

With no-one vulnerable, you pick up this 11-pointer:

♠ KQ5 ♥ J10965 ♦ J4 ♣ A62

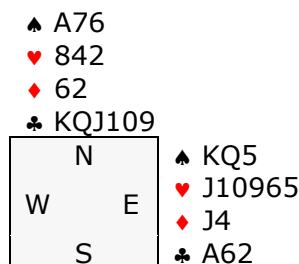
You are the dealer. Your call.

Some would open 1♥, but I think the hand is too weak. One popular guideline on whether to open marginal hands is the "Rule of 20". You add your HCP to the length of your two longest suits: if the total comes to at least 20, then open the bidding. It's not a bad concept.

On this hand, 11 (HCP) + 5 (hearts) + 3 (spades) = 19. Not enough. You pass and the auction is brief:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1NT*	Pass	3NT	Pass
* 15-17 HCP			

Partner leads ♠10, and you see:



Dummy plays low and you win ♠Q (declarer ♠3). Any thoughts?

My thought is that dummy's clubs look threatening. But I have ♣A, so maybe we can create entry problems for declarer. If we can force out dummy's ♠A, and hold off from taking our ♣A until declarer is exhausted of clubs, then dummy's clubs will wither on the vine.

To achieve this, play ♠K next. This may well set up an extra trick for declarer's ♠J (a card we know him to hold, as partner has led the top of his spade sequence), but in the big scheme of things, we cannot help that. And

it's possible that declarer's spade jack will fall under our ♠K, if declarer started with ♠Jx.

You play ♠K, declarer follows ♠4, alas, partner ♠2 and dummy's ♠A wins.

Next as expected comes ♣K, you play low, declarer ♣4 and partner ♣3.

In these situations, where partner has nothing in clubs, his ♣2 should be a *count* signal, indicating how many clubs he holds. Playing standard count signals, playing a low card first then a higher one indicates an *odd* number in the suit; playing a high card first then a lower one indicates an *even* number in the suit.

Some partnerships reverse this rule, but in this game, you are playing standard count signals. Given that you have the ♣2, partner's ♣3 must mean that he started with an odd number of clubs.

Next comes ♣Q. Your play.

Let's see, partner probably has 3 clubs. With your 3 and dummy's 5, that leaves 2 clubs for declarer. You could take the ♣A right now, and be confident that declarer will have no more clubs after this trick.

Wait a minute ... what if partner's ♣3 is a singleton? Well then, that means declarer has four clubs, and you will not be able to hold out dummy's clubs. If you wait until the third round of the suit before taking your ace, declarer will still have a 4th club.

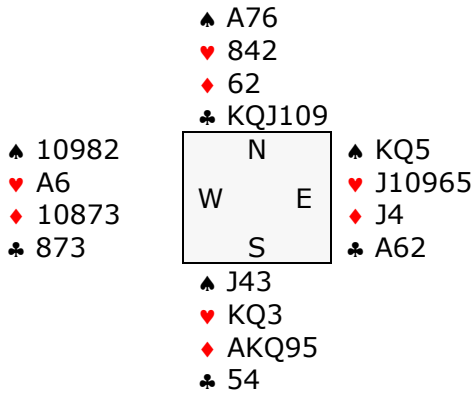
So you take the ♣A right now, and both declarer and partner follow.

Last problem for this hand. What do you play next?

You could play your last spade which will likely set up partner's long spade as a winner.

But it might also be a good idea to play a red suit (a heart for preference) hoping to take a winning red suit finesse for your side.

The good news is that any card (except a club!) will do, as this is the full deal:



Your timely defence holds declarer to 8 tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 1 club). The sacrificial play of a second high spade cost your side a trick in spades, but saved *three* tricks in clubs.

Points to remember:

- The Rule of 20 (HCP + length of the two longest suits) is a useful guide in deciding whether to open the bidding.
- Your play of a second high spade, which destroyed dummy’s hand was an example of a Merrimac Coup. The Merrimac was an American steamship, which was deliberately scuttled by the American side during the Spanish-American war in 1898, in an attempt to block up the Spanish fleet at the entrance of Santiago Harbour in Cuba.
- Count signals are a valuable guide to the defence. In this case, partner’s count in clubs told you exactly when to win the ♣A.



**2014 Victorian Daytime
Swiss Pairs Championship**

Friday 25th April, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso
A Red Master Point Event

Convenor Robert Ellery
Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006
Online entries www.vba.asn.au

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Taking the Push

No one vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♣	2♠	3♣	1♠
			?

In this common scenario, both sides have found a fit, and the question is: “how far are we willing to go to win the contract?”

There are no absolute answers, only a series of guidelines to help you decide whether to push on.

- If you think your side has a 9-card fit (eg you have 6 of your suit, and partner has shown 3), then it’s almost always correct to compete to at least the 3-level.
- Taking the push (bidding 3♠ here) does *not* invite partner to bid 4♠: it is simply showing a hand that is not prepared to let the opponents win the auction. To invite a game, you have to bid something else: a new suit for example, or even doubling 3♣, which is not a penalty double when the opponents have found a fit.
- Remember, partner is still there: in this auction, yours is not the final decision for your side. If you pass, then partner might decide to take the push himself.
- If you have a singleton in their suit, it doesn’t necessarily mean you should take the push: partner might have length and strength there, and want to defend.

Do you “take the push” with these hands?

- (a) ♠ KJ874 ♥ 654 ♦ AJ3 ♣ A3
- (b) ♠ KJ8743 ♥ 54 ♦ AJ3 ♣ A3
- (c) ♠ KJ874 ♥ A4 ♦ K10765 ♣ 3
- (d) ♠ AKJ87 ♥ A4 ♦ KJ64 ♣ 93
- (e) ♠ KJ874 ♥ KJ ♦ A3 ♣ 9532
- (f) ♠ KJ874 ♥ Q4 ♦ A3 ♣ QJ93

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♣	2♠	3♣	1♠ ?

(a) ♠ KJ874 ♥ 654 ♦ AJ3 ♣ A3

Pass. Your hand is extraordinarily ordinary. There's no particular reason to think you can make 3♠ or that you cannot defeat 3♣. Consult your partner by passing it around to him.

(b) ♠ KJ8743 ♥ 54 ♦ AJ3 ♣ A3

3♠. The 6-card spade suit (meaning you have at least a 9-card fit) tips the balance towards bidding on. The extra spade gives you extra playing strength, *and* means you are less likely to take spade tricks against their club contract.

(c) ♠ KJ874 ♥ A4 ♦ K10765 ♣ 3

3♠. With excellent distribution, you want to compete further. Don't bid 3♦, which might encourage partner to go for game in spades. Your hand's not *that* good!

(d) ♠ AKJ87 ♥ A4 ♦ KJ64 ♣ 93

3♦. With 16 HCP and 18 total points, you may well have a game here. A bid of 3♦ is a game try, and also shows length in diamonds. Partner can look favourably on any diamond honours he holds, when deciding whether to bid 4♠ or not.

(e) ♠ KJ874 ♥ KJ ♦ A3 ♣ 9532

3♠. How many clubs does partner hold? At most one, as the opponents surely have at least 8 clubs between them. You will be able to ruff at least one of your clubs in dummy. This hand should play well in spades.

(f) ♠ KJ874 ♥ Q4 ♦ A3 ♣ QJ93

Pass. Again you know that partner is short in clubs, but this time you want to defend. Don't double: it's not a penalty double, and anyway you aren't certain you can defeat 3♣ anyway. (If you did make a penalty double, it might even warn declarer of the bad club break and help him in the play.) Just stay stumm, and hope to beat 3♣.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dlr: West	♠ Q9852
Vul: Nil	♥ Q7
	♦ Q10
	♣ QJ87
♠ K107	N
♥ A9	W E
♦ 8743	S
♣ 9542	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All pass	

After a competitive partscore battle, you lead ♦8, to ♦10 and partner wins ♦J. Back comes ♥4.

Plan your defence.

Problem 2:

Dlr: South	♠ QJ
Vul: Nil	♥ J6543
	♦ AJ742
	♣ A
♠ AK1043	N
♥ KQ9	W E
♦ Q	S
♣ 7643	

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♠	D'ble	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1 12-14
- 2 game-forcing relay
- 3 denies 3 hearts

It seems a good idea to lead a low spade, and dummy's ♠J wins, partner's ♠2. Declarer plays to ♦K and your ♦Q falls (partner ♦8). ♦A wins the next trick (partner ♦3), as you discard a club. Declarer cashes ♣A and rather surprisingly next plays ♠Q, partner following ♠7. How will you continue?

Solutions on page 12.



GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS Bill Jacobs

Questions about the auction

During a duplicate session, you will play against about 9 different opponents: each will have their own system. The laws give you the right to know the meaning of your opponents' bids – this is described in Law 20 "Review and Explanation of Calls".

At any stage of the game, you are allowed to ask the opponents about the meaning of a bid, but only at your turn to bid (during the auction) or your turn to play (during the play of the hand). This is important: if you ask at any other time, particular at partner's turn to bid or play, then the implication is that your question is for partner's benefit, not yours.

The answer to your question is given by the partner of the player who made the bid.

Don't ask about the meaning of a bid unless you need the information to help you with your own bid (or play). If the opponents have the auction to themselves, with you and your partner just passing in boredom, it's best to let them complete the auction without asking questions.

Then if you end up on opening lead, you can then say "can you explain the auction please". (Or if you are not on opening lead, and partner leads without asking questions, then when it is your turn to play to the first trick, you can ask the same question.) A generic question like this is much better than a pointed question like: "what did 3♠ mean?", a question that might suggest to your partner that you have good spades.

For example, your LHO opens 1NT, RHO bids 2♣, and you hold:

♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ xxxx ♣ KJ10x

Don't ask what 2♣ means! It's probably Stayman (and if it's by chance natural or something else, so what?), and you have no

intention of doing anything other than passing. Asking what the bid means will suggest that partner should lead a club if on lead to the final contract, and this will cast a foul smell over the deal which the director may need to sort out.

Another tricky situation that arises from time to time is when you and your partner have a bidding misunderstanding.

Your RHO opens 1NT, you bid 2♠ with:

♠ AQJxxx ♥ Axx ♦ xx ♣ xx

Partner alerts your 2♠ bid and when asked, explains: "we play Cappelletti: that shows spades and a minor". Oh dear! Something has gone horribly wrong. What should you do?

Nothing! The auction is still live: you cannot say anything, or use body language to indicate that you don't have spades and a minor. This is not easy to achieve: it's the sort of thing one should practise in front of a mirror!

You must, for the moment, ignore partner's explanation and keep bidding the hand consistently with your original intention, which was to show a one-suited overcall in spades.

The time to alert the opponents about the misunderstanding is a point where you and your partner have no further partnership communication to make on the hand. If your side ends up as declarer (so that one of you is now the dummy), then tell the opponents about the problem at the end of the auction. For example, everyone passes, and you are declarer in 2♠. Pipe up now with: "we've had a misunderstanding – I intended my 2♠ bid as just natural."¹

Suppose instead that LHO bids 3NT, everyone passes, and you are on defence. You have to keep quiet, and defend the hand with your partner. At the end of the play, with your problems exposed to everyone, the director should be called, and he will sort out whether an adjusted score is required.

¹ Technically, if partner's explanation is correct, and you have forgotten that you play Cappelletti, only being reminded by partner's explanation, then the opponents have not been misinformed about your agreements, and you don't have to say anything. The fact that you have misbid is not something the opponents have the right to know. However, it is often unclear what your actual agreements are, and the best course of action is to let your opponents know of the problem.

FROM WIRELESS TO WALLABIES

Many Victorian bridge players will have heard of Norman McCance, a foundation member of the VBA. Norman and his friend Stan Lithgow introduced Contract Bridge into Victoria in about 1929, to replace the existing game of Auction Bridge. Norman and his wife Dorothy were both champion players, as is their son Ian and also their late daughter, Ailsa. Norman wrote a bridge column for many years for the old Argus newspaper.



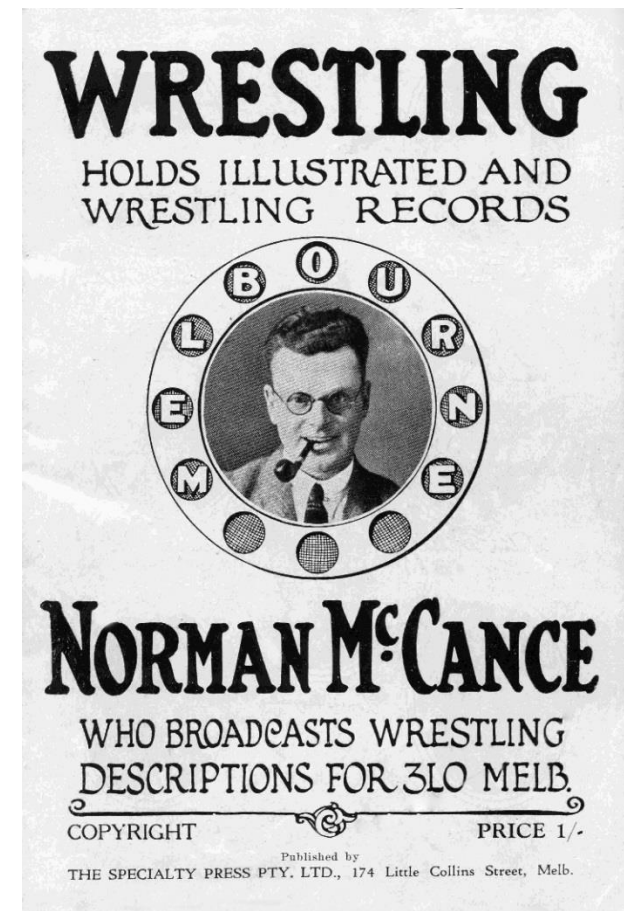
Norman McCance with daughter Ailsa (later Ailsa Tandy), and son Ian



Dorothy McCance at the bridge table, 1934

In her entertaining new book *From Wireless to Wallabies*, his granddaughter Janet Werkmeister shows there was a lot more to Norman than playing bridge. A star of radio in 1920s Melbourne, Norman reported on major events in Australian history for ABC radio, the *Argus* and the *Herald* before his lifelong love of animals brought him new fame as a naturalist in the 1950s and 1960s. The following extract from the book picks up his story in the late 1920s:

Norman's wrestling broadcasts became enormously popular, bringing him much fame. ABC radio station 3LO asked him to write a series of booklets about wrestling for his enthusiastic listeners, and he later said: "they sold like hot cakes....Everyone seemed to make a lot of money out of my wrestling books, except me."



Despite the gripes about lack of financial recompense, Norman must have relished the public recognition that the broadcasts gained him. He was a charming, gregarious man, with enormous enthusiasm for life. A great talker, he was the centre of attention at any social gathering.

Apart from the pace of wrestling being suited to broadcasting, there was another magic ingredient that caught the public's attention: a home grown world champion. The very first match broadcast featured a "pocket Hercules" Australian by the name of Walter Miller. After moving to the United States, Walter had become the world middleweight champion in 1919, and went on to make history by winning world titles in four different weight divisions. He became a good friend of Norman's, and visited his home often to play bridge, whenever he was staying in Melbourne for a series of matches.

Norman had many fond memories of Walter, as recounted in a 1936 Argus article:

I took Walter rabbit shooting and I played bridge with him. My happiest recollections at the bridge table were of his grim, fighting face, chewing an unlit cigar and wrestling, with odds against him, at "Six hearts, doubled."

Perhaps I may recall the evening on which he turned up late for a bridge game at my home and cried "Normal, I've killed a man!" He always called me Normal, but he may have been mistaken.

In his high and rather squeaky voice, he asked what would happen to him, and when I heard that he had hit a man, who lay unconscious for 27 hours after the blow, I said he had better prepare for a manslaughter charge after Christmas. "Gee! I can't do that Normal! I've got to get back to my wife (in the USA), she's expecting a baby."

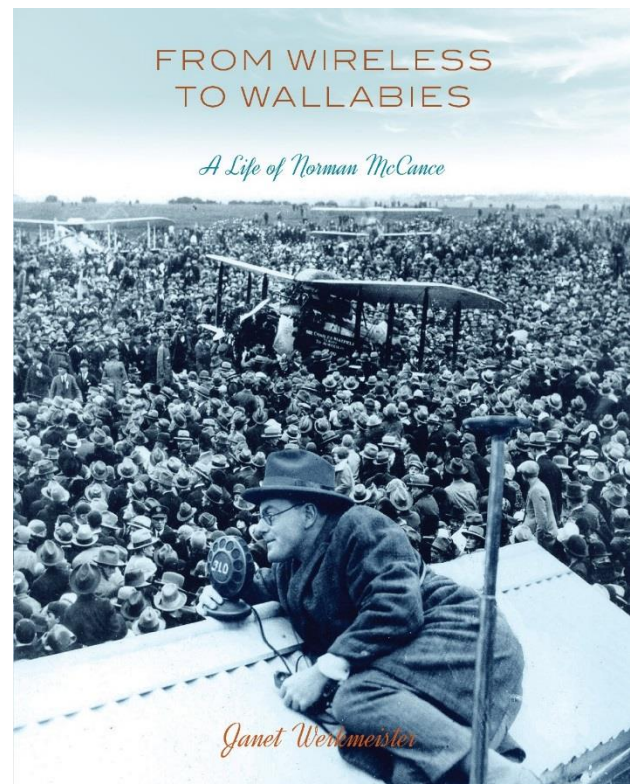
Walter had been staying at The Prince of Wales hotel in St Kilda when he was summoned for a telephone call. Standing right in front of the telephone booth in the foyer was a burly wharfie, who ignored Walter's request to "Stand aside, please." Walter was in a hurry to get the call, so tried to push past and "the big chap cracked him one", knocking him backwards. Norman did not find this part of the story surprising, he said that Walter was "one of those deceptive little men who always seemed to be picked on by quarrelsome strangers looking for trouble".

Walter Miller had been a champion boxer before turning to wrestling. He picked himself up, marched up to the bully and said a few

choice words followed by "a little jolt of a punch" that lifted the attacker off his feet, knocked him across the hall and ended with him cracking the back of his head against a window sill.

So they took him away on a stretcher, leaving about 20 witnesses to assure the police that it was entirely his own fault.

What happened to the victim? He "came to" about noon on Saturday, after having been unconscious for about 42 hours and the first thing he said was "Who hit me?" When they told him it was Walter Miller, he was so proud and pleased about it all that he demanded his clothes, walked out of the hospital and passed happily out of the story.



This amazing photo shows Norman McCance broadcasting the arrival of the first ever international flight to Melbourne, on August 15, 1926. An estimated 60,000 people made the trip to Essendon Airport.

To obtain a signed copy of the book for only \$30, delivered to the VBA premises, send an email to Ian McCance at ianmcc27@optusnet.com.au. The book can also be ordered through online suppliers such as Booktopia or Boomerang Books, or by special request at your local bookstore.

THE DEFAULT Bill Jacobs

Have you ever had an auction with your partner where the bidding starts on firm ground, but then spirals higher and higher, with you increasingly bewildered about what is going on?

If your answer is No, then I envy you. For the rest of us, I have a useful Default.

Consider this hand:

♠ J5 ♥ KQ1086 ♦ A103 ♣ J83

The auction begins:

Partner	You
1♠	2♥
3♣	3NT
4♣	4♠
5♥	?

It all starts comfortably enough: partner bids her spades and clubs, you bid your hearts and then admit to a diamond stopper with your 3NT bid.

Then partner bids 4♣, presumably showing extra length in clubs and maybe extra strength. You bid 4♠ to show you had a little bit of support there, and now partner makes this mystifying 5♥ bid.

What is going on? What is trumps? Clubs? Spades? Or even hearts? Lord knows.

Meanwhile, your hand isn't bad. The two black jacks are nice, and the ♦A is a great card.

So here is our Get Out Of Jail Free Default:

5NT is "pick a slam"

5NT is not a contract you want to play more than once in an entire lifetime. So, except where the bid is asking for kings as a follow-up to Blackwood, a meaning of 5NT of "partner, you choose where to play our slam" is a valuable default.

In our example auction, a 5NT bid relieves the stress. Maybe partner is thinking that her bidding should be crystal clear to you, but your 5NT bid says: "partner, *you* might think it's

obvious what you've got, but I have no idea: please make a bid that I can pass".

20 years ago, 5NT was popularly used as the "Grand Slam Force", or Josephine convention (named by Ely Culbertson after his wife Josephine, who first dreamt up the idea in the 1930s). It said: bid a grand slam if you have two of the top three honours in our agreed trump suit. It was a useful gadget, but has been rendered mainly obsolete by the coming of Roman Key Card Blackwood, which nowadays will identify the presence or otherwise of the ace, king and queen of trumps.

The pick-a-slam 5NT can also be valuable even when there is no partnership confusion.

You hold:

♠ A2 ♥ KQ984 ♦ A ♣ Q10652

LHO deals, and this is the auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3♦	3♠	5♦	?

That's nasty. You have a great hand, but the auction is up at 5♦ before you have a chance to speak.

There's enough strength there to chance a slam, but in what suit? Spades, hearts and clubs are all possibilities. If you have 5NT as pick-a-slam in your kitbag, the problem is solved.

Partner's hand:

♠ KQ986 ♥ 32 ♦ Q5 ♣ AK94

Only a 5NT bid here will get you to the making slam in clubs.

Victorian Seniors Team Qualification Stage 1

Tuesdays May 6th, 13th and 20th starting 1 pm.

An IMP pairs event qualifying at least 7 pairs through to Stage 2, which will be held on the weekend of May 31st and June 1st, to determine the Victorian Seniors Team for the 2014 ANC in Sydney.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Rye Beach Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Arul – D. Sharman
- 2 H. Blakeman – A. Meydan
- 3 C. Hughes – K. Bechet

Swiss Teams

- 1 B. Geyer, C. Schwabeggar, K. Frazer,
E. Hynes
- 2 J. Yang, G. Lovrecz, M. Zhang
- 3 C. Arul, D. Sharman, K. French,
T. Gariepy

Donald Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 L. Newton-Tabrett – J. Simpson
- 2 H. Keefe - M. Yuill
- 3 D. Read – G. Read

Swiss Teams

- 1 B. Evans, F. Symons, D. Upsall,
S. Watgosn
- 2 J. Tunks, G. Carter, D. Carter,
L. McKenna
- 3 D. Read, G. Read, H. Lovegrove, P. Bailey

Wodonga Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – J. Ebery
- 2 K. French – E. Hynes
- 3 A. St Clair – D. Harley

Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, A. Glasson, F. Kovacs
- 2 J. Tunks, G. Hill, D. Carter, G. Carter
- 3 F. Miller, J. Armstrong, R. Pearce, J. Piper

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 5 (March 1)

- 2 Stephen Lester – Max Rutherford
(Waverley)
- 3 Wendy Sizeland – Sara Ginsbourg (VBA)

Event 6 (March 16)

- 1 Jennifer Fletcher - Bernard Fletcher
(Bendigo)
- 2 Beverley Pollard – Eileen Farren
(Frankston)
- 3 John Farr – John Drury (Phillip Island)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Whittlesea

Sunday 6th April 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Whittlesea Show Grounds
Administration Building
29 McPhees Rd
Whittlesea (Melway 246H7)

Contact: Lyndall Shaw, 03 5786 1839

Enter: www.whittlesea.bridgeaustralia.org

Frankston

Saturday 12th April 10 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 13th April 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: St Francis Xavier Centre
Cnr Baxter & Davey Streets
Frankston (Melway 102D3)

Contact: Yvonne Minton, 0418 348 264

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Kings & Queens Easter

Friday 18th April 10 am: Swiss Pairs
Saturday 19th April 10 am: Butler Pairs
Sunday 20th April 10 am: Swiss Teams
Sunday 21st April 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: 20 Spinks St, Brighton
Cnr Baxter & Davey Streets
Frankston (Melway 102D3)

Contact: Stephen Lester, 9530 6622

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Bayside

Saturday 3rd May 10 am: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 4th May 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Beaumaris Bowls Club
Martin St, Beaumaris

Contact: Jan Clyne, 0418-556-382

Enter: Send mail to Bayside Bridge,
9 Primrose Cres, Brighton East 3187

MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

At its most recent meeting, council approved the 2014 Match & Tournament committee with membership comprising:

David Morgan (Chair), Len Meyer, Laura Ginnan, Laurie Kelso, Arthur Robbins, Paula Schroor, Justin Stark, Ben Thompson.

The council thanked the retiring members Simon Hinge and Leigh Gold for their services over several years.

Substitutions

The Match and Tournament Committee has reviewed the VBA's policy on substitutions. As a result, the VBA policy will more closely reflect the ABF policy about the number of sets (= sessions, matches or stanzas) a player must play in an event.

In essence, players are now required to play half the sets of an event ($n/2$ where n = the number of sets). When there is an odd number of sets then the requirement varies between teams events and pairs events (which includes those scored at IMPs as well as those scored at matchpoints): in a teams event all players in the team must play $n/2$ (rounded down) sets; in a pairs event each player must play $n/2$ (rounded up) sets. What this means is that in a pairs event each player must play at least half the sets (so 2 of 3; 6 of 11 etc); in a teams event a player can play just under half -- but only if there is an odd number of sets (so 4 of 9; 7 of 15 etc).

This amendment will take effect from 10 April 2014 and will apply to all events that start after that date.

And a reminder:

- Please notify the Match and Tournament Committee or Laurie of your substitution in advance of playing.
- The purpose of the policy on substitutions is to try to maintain equity. It's not fair to other contestants if you play with a substitute who is much better or much worse than your scheduled partner. The

MTC consequently imposes a penalty if your substitute is "overweight".

- A substitute cannot play more than half the sets.
- If you are playing in a pairs event (whether scored at matchpoints or IMPs) you must play at least half the sets with your partner - so, for example, in a four-week event, you can't be away for two weeks and your partner away for a different week.

System Card Requirements

All pairs entering the final selection event for the open, women's, seniors or youth teams to represent Victoria in the ANC are required to provide a PDF file with their system card to Laurie Kelso. This is because the seniors and youth events in particular finish just days before the date by which the VBA must enter teams for the ANC. The VBA will have to pay \$220 for each system card that is provided after the due date. Help save our money! You can find the ABF system card here ([link to http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/abf-convention-card-pdf/](http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/abf-convention-card-pdf/)).

As well, Traian Chira - Australia's Bridge Base Online guru - greatly appreciates having system cards available for commentators and spectators when he broadcasts matches on BBO.

Bridge for Brains

Want to play for Red points and enjoy expert hand commentary provided by Ron Klinger?

Then the Bridge for Brains Research Challenge is for you!

Monday 5th May, at 11:30 am or 7:30 pm. (The same set of hands will be used for each session, so you play either in the morning or the evening, but not both.)

Come along and support this national charity event!

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

Lightner by Reflection

Theodore Lightner was Ely Culbertson's principal partner in the 1930s. He died in 1981 aged 88. His contributions to bridge theory include the Lightner Double (LD), which is part of the equipment of most tournament players. The LD arrives "out-of the blue", from the hand not on lead to a slam and indicates a void, which partner is expected to find on lead. Occasionally we read of a player who has made a LD forgetting that they themselves are on lead, and I seem to recall a Mollo story where the Rabbit does something like this (of course emerging unscathed).

In the first segment of the final of this year's (2014) NEC cup Sjoert Brink's remarkable reflecting LD brought his team a swing of 17 IMPs. He Lightner-doubled a slam when on lead, his lead found an ace with partner, and he ruffed the return.

Dir: South	♠ 65		
Vul: All	♥ J1042		
	♦ 10764		
	♣ AQ2		
♠ KQ43		N W E S	♠ AJ97
♥ A65			♥ K
♦ AKJ83			♦ Q952
♣ 10			♣ K843
	♠ 1082		
	♥ Q9873		
	♦ -		
	♣ J9765		

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	1NT ¹
4♣ ²	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	D'ble ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 The other two suits
- 2 Splinter
- 3 Lightner

Brink sat South, and after initially Passing, introduced a 2-suited take-out with that 3-count, vulnerable. The opponents didn't stop off to penalise 4♥ (only 800), but reached the apparently sound 6♠. Brink's LD was clearly

based on a void in diamonds, but he still had to reach partner at trick 1. He started ♠5 (suit preference, partner!) and Sebastiaan Drijver had no problem returning a diamond.

It is clear that World Grandmaster Brink is quite without fear. Both of his calls are remarkable. Shape, I agree, is everything, but few would have entered the auction after 1♠. The success of his LD depended on Drijver's having an Ace (after all the opponents hadn't looked for 7) and since hearts had been cue-bid he led a club. Either black ace with North would have done.

Finally, we note that, not unusually, East-West could have safely run from the LD. They had 12 tricks at notrumps.

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Suit Combination of the month

KQ10987
 □
 2

You need to bring this suit in, at notrumps, for 5 tricks. Which way is best? See page 12.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: West	♠ Q9852		
Vul: Nil	♥ Q7		
	♦ Q10		
	♣ QJ87		
♠ K107		♠ AJ43	
♥ A9		♥ 854	
♦ 8743		♦ AKJ5	
♣ 9542		♣ 103	

	♠ 6		
	♥ KJ10632		
	♦ 962		
	♣ AK6		

Is partner trying to prevent a diamond ruff in dummy? It looks like it – why else would partner have switched to trumps?

Well, you have time on your side in the quest to strip dummy of trumps. You must play *low* to this trick, retaining your ♥A to control matters. If declarer wins this and plays a second diamond, then the defence should, with some care, be able to take its 5 top tricks.

(Based on a deal submitted by Ben Thompson.)

Problem 2

Dir: East	♠ QJ		
Vul: All	♥ J6543		
	♦ AJ742		
	♣ A		
♠ AK1043		♠ 72	
♥ KQ9		♥ 1072	
♦ Q		♦ 10983	
♣ 7643		♣ J1052	

	♠ 9865		
	♥ A8		
	♦ K65		
	♣ KQ98		

You now can take 4 tricks in spades but need to look for a fifth. If declarer could have come to 9 tricks by cashing minors surely he would have done so. He must be desperate for trick 9 - why would he risk your having started with 6 spades? You can cash another spade to clarify things (partner ♥2, you know he was dealt 3), but on no account finish spades. The right card is ♥K, setting up trick 5 for the defence. You were being invited to squeeze partner in the minors.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

*State	
Ann Marie Bednarz	VBA
Sylvia Heimer	VBA
Mike Wakefield	Phillip Island
National	
Pam Brown	Dendy Park
Monika Cornell	Traralgon
Melroy Decouto	Waverley
Dawn Jolly	South Gippsland
*National	
Jackie Rossiter-Nuttall	Rye Beach
**National	
Anne Rosengren	Moonee Valley
Life	
Hilary Hutchings	Paynesville
Helen McAdam	Traralgon
Bronze Life	
Pam Thresher	Phillip Island
Grand	
Devika Carter	Waverley



Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan tying the knot on March 22nd. Congratulations!



Suit Combination of the month

KQ10987
 □
 2

Be a man (or woman!) and lead your 2 towards dummy, planning to finesse the 10.