

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2015

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VICTORIAN TEAMS FOR ANC

We wish our Victorian representatives the best of luck in the upcoming Australian National Championships in Fremantle:

Open: Ben Thompson (c), Bill Jacobs, Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard

Women: Shirley Collins, Meredith Woods, Cathie Lachman, Helen Snashall, Kim Frazer, Maggie Callander (NPC: Laurie Kelso)

Seniors: Dee Harley, Stephen Weisz, Richard Greenfield, Bob Gallus, Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins (NPC: Laurie Kelso)

Youth: Jamie Thompson, Liam Robertson, Aiden Robertson, Finn Rennie, Patrick Clifford, Conor Hosking, Ivy Anderson (NPC: Laura Ginnan)

STATE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

In 2015 the Victorian Bridge Association launched an Awards for Excellence program designed to recognise the many people in our game who provide an outstanding contribution to its success in their club/region/state. Awards were presented in three categories - Teacher, Volunteer and Official, for contributions in the 2014 calendar year. The judging panel comprised the President of the VBA and the Presidents of Victoria's three regions. The panel had a range of outstanding nominations from clubs around the state, however the three winners were standout candidates.

The awards were presented at the 2015 Victor Champion Cup, and our inaugural winners - **Chris Heesom** (Bairnsdale Bridge Club) for Volunteer of the Year; **Mary Elson** (Waverley Bridge Club) for Teacher of the Year and **Tim Woodley** (Ballarat Bridge Club) for Official of the Year were delighted to be honoured by the VBA for their efforts.

The VBA would also like to make mention of the finalists in each category who were Jenny

Monger (Benalla, volunteer), Mike Stokie (Geelong, official), and Carol Woodley (Ballarat, teacher).

The VBA thanks all clubs for participating in the awards, and we hope that other states will also introduce awards for outstanding contributions in their states, and that eventually a national award will be established whereby a national winner is selected from state finalists.



Mary Elson (right) with Kim Frazer



Ben Thompson presents Chris Heesom with her Excellence award

FOR STARTERS

Playing in the local duplicate, you pick up:

♠ K5 ♥ J9765 ♦ A4 ♣ 10987

No one is vulnerable, partner is the dealer, and the auction starts:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♦	?

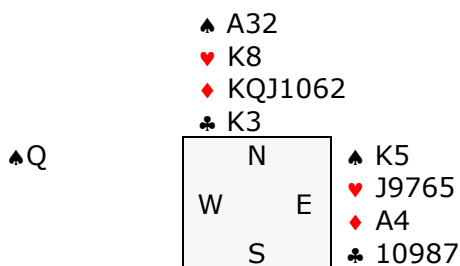
Do you stick in a bid?

I should think not! Whilst your overall strength (8 HCP) is sufficient for an overcall at the one-level, your suit is nothing short of pathetic. With partner already having passed, there is nothing good that a 1♥ overcall can achieve. You wouldn't expect to win the auction, and it's not as if you want that suit to be led to an eventual contract by your LHO.

So you pass, and the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Partner leads ♠Q and this is what greets you:



Declarer surveys the dummy for a moment and then calls for a low spade.

Take a moment to work out how strong partner's spades are, and also how many he has.

Partner's ♠Q lead is the top of a sequence, so he has the ♠J, and he should also have either the ♠10 or at the very least the ♠9. With ♠QJxxx, he is best off leading his fourth highest spade.

What's more, you suspect that partner has precisely 5 spades! Why? Well, if he only has 4 spades, that means that declarer has 4 spades, and one would expect declarer to have responded 1♠ to his partner's opening bid rather than 1NT: a 1NT response denies the ability to bid a 4-card major at the one-level.

Of course, this sort of reasoning cannot be guaranteed, because opponents are not always to be trusted: partner is the only other player at the table that you can trust.

Could partner have 6 spades? Let's spend a moment counting points. Declarer's 1NT response shows 6 to 9 HCP, but he probably has 8 - 9, as he accepted the 2NT invitation. You and dummy have 24 between you, so that leaves partner with 7 or 8 HCP. With 6 decent spades and 7-8 HCP, would partner not have opened with a weak 2♠ bid?

So you expect partner to have ♠QJ10xx or ♠QJ9xx, with 4 or 5 other high-card points. It's amazing how much you can work out with just a little bit of arithmetic!

Back to the problem at hand. You should put the ♠K on partner's ♠Q at trick 1, and continue the suit. If you let partner's ♠Q win, and he continues with another spade, declarer ducking again, you will win ♠K but not have a third spade to play. That would be unfortunate, as spades clearly represent your best chance of defeating 3NT.

Declarer follows with the ♠4, you return the ♠5, to declarer's ♠8 and partner's ♠9, declarer ducking again. Now partner plays ♠6, declarer wins the ♠A and follows with ♠10.

Declarer leads the ♦K from dummy, you play low, so the ♦K wins. You have to win the next diamond. Partner has followed with ♦3 then ♦8. What now?

You can assume partner has an ace, otherwise declarer will soon be claiming the remaining tricks. But which ace?

Partner seems to have gone out of his way to play low cards wherever possible. He returned his ♠6, which if you had been following the spots was his lowest outstanding spades. And he followed to the diamonds with his lowest card first.

He is giving you a strong *suit-preference* signal, indicating that his outstanding strength is in a low suit: in this case clubs. You should play a club now, which leads to down 2, the full deal being:

♠ A32			
♥ K8			
♦ KQJ1062			
♣ K3			
♠ QJ976	N	♠ K5	
♥ 1043	W E	♥ J9765	
♦ 83	S	♦ A4	
♣ A65		♣ 10987	
	♠ 1084		
	♥ AQ2		
	♦ 975		
	♣ QJ42		

Points to remember:

- Don't overcall with rubbish suits in moderate hands: nothing good can happen. Indeed here, a heart bid will result in a fatal heart lead from partner against 3NT.
- As a defender, when dummy goes down, you can make a lot of deductions, some of which may actually be useful. For example, declarer has usually indicated some sort of point range. Since you can see the points between you and dummy, you can do some subtraction from 40 and discover *partner's* point range.

It's not rocket science, but it does require work. If you play bridge just for fun, you might not want to bother. But if you are keen to improve your game and your scores, this point-counting and shape-counting exercise on defence is probably the most effective way to improve.

- Beware of blocked suits. In this case, you were able to unblock your ♠K with confidence: partner's ♠Q lead should indicate a strong sequence.
- Suit preference signals are a very common defensive mechanism. Once again it takes some energy to notice them. For example, partner's ♠6 was not a particularly low card: you had to notice that the 5, 4, 3 and 2 had already been played to previous tricks: tricks that you cannot inspect now.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

To Overcall – Or Not

No-one vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♦	?

There are some straightforward rules for deciding whether to overcall your RHO's opening bid. You need:

- a decent 5-card or longer suit, and
- a reasonable number of HCP

By 'decent', conservatives would say 2 of the top 3 honours (or 3 of the top 5). But this requirement can be relaxed a little, particularly when overcalling at the one-level. Moreover, being not vulnerable should enable you to be a little more aggressive in your overcalling strategy.

'A reasonable number of HCP', is defined by whether you are overcalling at the one-level or the two-level. At the one-level, you only need about 8 HCP to make an overcall; at the two-level about 11 HCP is the minimum strength required.

There's an *upper* limit on points also: you should have no more than about 16 HCP. With a hand stronger than that, start with a takeout double, which will ensure that you get another chance to speak in the auction. If instead you make a simple overcall on a really strong hand, there is a risk you might be left there, with your side having a game contract available.

So do you overcall the 1♦ opening, or not, on each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ KQJ105 ♥ 3 ♦ 965 ♣ J1084
- (b) ♠ K54 ♥ Q3 ♦ Q65 ♣ KJ974
- (c) ♠ AK3 ♥ AQ1054 ♦ J6 ♣ Q104
- (d) ♠ 10654 ♥ A32 ♦ 6 ♣ AQJ94
- (e) ♠ 54 ♥ AQ8732 ♦ Q65 ♣ 74
- (f) ♠ 5 ♥ AQ3 ♦ KQJ985 ♣ 1084

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♦	?

(a) ♠ KQJ105 ♥ 3 ♦ 965 ♣ J1084

1♠. Just 7 HCP but a magnificent suit and a little bit of distribution to boot. Only Caspar Milquetoast would pass this one.

(b) ♠ K54 ♥ Q3 ♦ Q65 ♣ KJ974

Pass. Conversely, this revolting 11 count is not worth a bid at the 2-level: it's just asking for trouble.

Hands (a) and (b) prove that guidelines for overcalling are just that: guidelines. There's always room for good judgment.

(c) ♠ AK3 ♥ AQ1054 ♦ J6 ♣ Q104

1♥. It's a fine hand, and not too strong for a simple overcall. If you double first, you are committed to bidding the hearts next, which might be at an uncomfortably high level. After 1♥, if it continues, for example 2♦-Pass-Pass back to you, you can take another bite of the cherry with a balancing takeout double.

(d) ♠ 10654 ♥ A32 ♦ 6 ♣ AQJ94

Double. You could overcall 2♣ without embarrassment, but why not also bring the major suits into play with the one bid?

(e) ♠ 54 ♥ AQ8732 ♦ Q65 ♣ 74

1♥. The alternative here is a 2♥ weak jump overcall, showing about 6-10 HCP and a good 6-card suit. That's certainly plausible, but carries some risk, as this heart suit is not especially good, and nor is the rest of the hand. Imagine LHO with ♥KJ9x, and it goes Pass-Pass-Double after your 2♥ overcall. That's what would happen to me, inevitably.

(f) ♠ 5 ♥ AQ3 ♦ KQJ985 ♣ 1084

Pass. You can't bid diamonds naturally at this point of the auction. 2♦ would be interpreted as a Michaels Cue Bid. No, you have to hold your fire ... you might get another chance in this auction, and a *delayed* diamond bid will be interpreted as natural by your partner.

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

- 1 T. Ranasinghe – G. McRobert
- 2 M. Hickey – S. Read
- 3 P. Schroor – D. Sheather

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Middleton, E. Hynes, V. Zhang, G. Ghali
- 2 J. Magee, T. Strong, D. Harley, S. Weisz
- 3 T. Ranasinge, G. McRobert, B. Geyer, K. Frazer

Theodor Herzl Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 A. Hegedus – A. Mill
- 2 J. Howard – M. Darling
- 3 A. Czapnik – R. Stewart

Wodonga Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 M. Ross – K. Douglas
- 2 A. Thompson – M. Manicavasagar
- 3 J. Rava – D. Brennan

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Ross, K. Douglas, M. Manicavasagar, A. Thompson
- 2 N. Van Vucht, J. Brockwell, V. Brockwell, K. French
- 3 J. Maginnity, M. Greenhalgh, P. Tsai, J. Jordan

Geelong Congress*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 A. Robbins – G. Ridgway
- 2 G. Johnson – Q. van Abbe
- 3 E. Samuel – P. Hollands

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Czapnik, C. Hughes, S. Weisz, D. Harley
- 2 B. Mill, T. Garipey, C. Fernando, C. Chakravorty
- 3 S. White, C. Macquarrie, P. Corrigan, L. Hickman

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs*Event 11 (June 6)*

- 2 H. Nicholson – J. Barbour (Phillip Island)

Event 12 (June 21)

- 1 M. Callander – J. Abfelbaum (Frankston)
- 2 C. Bailey – V. Whitby (Yarra Valley)

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

This year's tournament was another outstanding success, superbly organised by co-convenors Kim Frazer and Neil Ewart. The VCC draws the 3rd biggest attendance in the Australian Calendar, behind the Gold Coast Congress and the Summer Festival in Canberra.

Congratulations to all the winners:

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs:
Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer

Ian McCance Seniors' Swiss Pairs:
Gary Ridgway – Arthur Robbins

Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs:
Anne Somerville – Anne-Marie Russell

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs:
Michael Francis – Tony Dold

VCC <200 MP Swiss Pairs:
Dell MacNeil – Akiko Stark

Victor Champion Cup:
Matthew Thomson, Cathryn Herden,
Peter Buchen, Kathy Buchen

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams:
Maurice Ripley, Michael Box,
Roger McNee - Glenda McNee

**FIGHTING DEMENTIA
AT MOONEE VALLEY BRIDGE CLUB**



Jenny Date (pictured, standing) asked MVBC members to pay a little extra for their bridge game on Tuesday 5th May to raise funds for the National Dementia campaign. The donation to charity attracted the club's record attendance of 108 players.

Directors' Course

A 2-day Directors Course conducted by Laurie Kelso, Victorian Chief Tournament Director, will be held on **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August** at the Victorian Bridge Association 131 Poath Road Murrumbeena

Saturday: Laws, Movements, Technology and Scoring

Sunday: Movements, Masterpointing, Preparation and Organisation

10:00 am to 4:30 pm (½ hour lunch break)

COST: \$50 for 1 day or \$80 for both days

Any Victorian Affiliated Club may send one (registered ABF) attendee at no charge. A travel subsidy is available for attendees residing more than 100 km from the GPO. All enquiries and registrations to Cathie on 03-9530-9006 or email clachman@vba.asn.au

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: South ♠ 7
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKQ1086
 ♦ 763
 ♣ 952

N
S

♠ AKQJ4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AK4
 ♣ AK84

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♦Q. You win and play three top spades. Alas, West discards a club on the third round, so East has a trump trick.

How do you continue, to avoid partner's wrath at your rash bidding? Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

♠ 7			
♥ AKQ1086			
♦ 763			
♣ 952			
♠ 82	N W E S	♠ 109653	
♥ J632		♥ 74	
♦ QJ8		♦ 10952	
♣ Q1073		♣ J6	
		♠ AKQJ4	
	♥ 5		
	♦ AK4		
	♣ AK84		

Continue with a fourth and fifth round of trumps, losing your trump trick now. You don't want East ruffing a heart later.

Win the minor suit return and try to run the hearts.

Should you finesse the ♥10 on the first round? West, with short spades, rates to have long hearts, but is that enough distributional information to justify a finesse?

I don't know, and fortunately, you don't have to either. Before you play the hearts, cash off all your minor suit winners, just in case a miracle has happened and somehow one of the little ones has come good.

And indeed, West has been squeezed. To hold on to his club guard, he will have had to discard a heart, and Bob's Your Uncle.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State	
Carmel Davis	Moonee Valley
Jill Shirley	Kooyong
Martin Simons	VBA
Carol Witton	Moonee Valley
*State	
John Evans	Kings & Queens
Julie Hegarty	Dendy Park
National	
Helen Cantwell	Sale
Trevor Haley	Moonee Valley
Michelle Stokie	Geelong
Life	
Pan Dingwell	Lakes Entrance
Kim Hoff	Waverley
Sonia Richards	Dendy Park

Bronze Life	
Helen McAdam	Traralgon
Silver Life	
Robyn Couch	Traralgon
Grand	
Denise Clarke	Geelong
Penny Corrigan	VBA
Arian Lasocki	VBA
Silver Grand	
Douglas Newlands	Geelong

BLACK MAGIC
Bill Jacobs

Here's an uncertain slam that could benefit from a little witchcraft.

♠ J973
♥ AQ
♦ A105
♣ K642
N S
♠ AKQ54
♥ J32
♦ KJ
♣ AJ10

You've reached 6♠ and along the way, East doubled North's 5♥ response to Blackwood.

The lead is the ♥9, and you go up with the ace to draw trumps, which turn out to be divided 2-2. What now? You can set up a heart trick, but discarding a minor-suit card from dummy won't help. It seems you will need to sniff out the whereabouts of a minor suit queen.

Unless ...

You can weave a spell on East. Since the established heart trick is useless to you, lead the *jack* of hearts to the queen and East's king. East will no doubt think that playing a third heart will offer you a ruff-and-discard.

So he returns a minor suit card, and you smile and claim.

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Grand Prix

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

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 21a Electra Ave
 Ashwood

Contact: Anna St Clair, 0406-732-190

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Kattery

Saturday 11th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 12th July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 21a Electra Ave
 Ashwood

Contact: Keith Kat, 0428-130-844

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Phillip Island

Saturday 25th July, 11 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 26th July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Newhaven Hall
 Cleeland Street
 Newhaven

Contact: Shirley Stewart, 0400-815-353

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Knox

Saturday 1st August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 2nd August, 10 am: Swiss Teams

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

Contact: Claire Straton, 9725 9806

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Melbourne Bridge Club

Saturday 8th August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 9th August, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: MCC Kew
 397 Barkers Rd
 Kew

Contact: Sandra Mansell, 9459-9138

Enter: bridgeclub@mcckew.com.au

Traralgon

Saturday 22nd August, 11 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 23rd August, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Federation Training
 49-63 Princes St
 Traralgon

Contact: Jocelyn Pilmore, 0418-387-758

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

GARDENVALE BRIDGE CLUB (formerly Kings and Queens) at 20 Spink St. Brighton, is having an Open Day on Wednesday July 22. Enjoy a day of free bridge at the new club.

Program:

10 am – 12:15	Lesson with Jeff Fust: Defence, the most important concepts you need to know
1:30 pm – 4:30	Regular duplicate
7:30 pm – 10:30	Swiss Pairs

Places are limited and bookings are essential.

Email: leeron10@bigpond.com

Phone: 9530 6622

STATE EVENT RESULTS

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Muntz – L. Gold
- 2 D. Beckett – N. Ewart
- 3 A. Hegedus – J. Howard

LIFE IMITATES TEXTBOOK
Bill Jacobs

This deal from the 2014 VBA Christmas Teams could have come from a textbook, but has a twist added:

Dir: East ♠ 1054
 Vul: All ♥ A9
 ♦ K1083
 ♣ A876

N
S

♠ A87
 ♥ KQ7652
 ♦ A2
 ♣ J2

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads ♣K. Given the bidding, there's a fair chance that East is void in clubs. So what do you do?

♠ 1054
 ♥ A9
 ♦ K1083
 ♣ A876

N
W E
S

♠ A87
 ♥ KQ7652
 ♦ A2
 ♣ J2

♠ J6 ♠ KQ932
 ♥ J103 ♥ 84
 ♦ 6 ♦ QJ9754
 ♣ KQ109543 ♣ -

Assuming a 3-2 break in hearts, you have 10 tricks: 6 hearts, 1 spade, 2 diamonds, 1 club. But if East does have a club void, then the ♣A is under threat.

The solution is in the text books. You withhold the ♣A until after you have drawn trumps, even though it means you lose an early club trick or two.

So you let West win the first trick, and sure enough, East discards. West leads ♣Q, which wins similarly.

Now comes the twist: West leads ♣10, you stubbornly play low from dummy, and East ruffs with ♥8. Now you have to protect your heart tricks! Discard a spade on this trick, rather than over-ruffing.

You lose the first three tricks (who would have thought it, holding all the aces and playing in a suit contract?), but win the next 10.

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS

Calling the Director 101

In May, we looked at the thorny issue of Unauthorized Information (UI), whereby players take advantage of information to which they are not entitled, such as partner's hesitation or explanation.

Now we consider the situation from the opponents' perspective, and start by re-quoting from Law 9:

Summoning the director does not cause a player to forfeit any rights to which he might otherwise be entitled.

If you think there might be a problem with an opponent's misuse of UI, then you have the right to call the director about it. **BUT**, there's a right way to do this, and a wrong way. Mostly what happens is the wrong way, and this can lead to unpleasant interactions.

Here's a deal to illustrate how I think things should work:

Dir: West ♠ K982
 Vul: All ♥ K10
 ♦ 93
 ♣ Q8764

N
W E
S

♠ AQ ♠ J1073
 ♥ Q982 ♥ A763
 ♦ AKJ10762 ♦ Q5
 ♣ - ♣ A109

♠ 654
 ♥ J54
 ♦ 84
 ♣ KJ532

You are South, minding your own business, and the uncontested bidding for East-West starts as follows:

West	East
1♦	1♥
4♣	

East pauses for quite some time, and bids 4♥. Over 4♥, West thinks for a bit, and emerges with 5♥! The auction concludes:

West	East
1♦	1♥
4♣	4♥
5♥	6♥
Pass	

At this point, and without knowing what the East-West cards are, you are suspicious that West has used East's hesitation to decide to bid on, but you cannot know that for sure, nor do you know whether it's a winning move for the opponents.

I suggest that either you or your partner now say to East:

"Do you agree that you paused over 4♣?"

East will accept this to be the truth – it is fresh in everyone's minds, and no-one has accused anyone of anything.

You decide to lead a spade to 6♥, and that powerful West hand gets put down on the table. Hmm, was that a clear continuation over 4♥? You don't need to answer that question ... just get on with the play.

Scenario 1

Declarer wins the spade lead, plays ♥A, ♣A to pitch the spade, and another heart up, thinks, and he puts in the queen (an error), partner wins with the king, and your heart jack takes the setting trick. Nice!

There is no need to take any further action. You don't have to call the director, or make a comment to the opponents like: "if you'd made it, you wouldn't have been allowed to keep it". You should say nothing – just take your +100 and be happy.

Scenario 2

Declarer guesses the hearts: ♥A, ♣A, and a heart ducked to partner's king, claim.

Call the director. But do it properly – say: "I'd like to get a ruling on this one". Don't be nasty about it and make accusatory implications about your opponents' ethics.

The director will come over, and you will relate what happened. Just the facts, nothing more, and including that East agreed that he had hesitated. *Don't argue your case.* There is no need.

The director might ask East-West some questions: for example, what did 4♣ mean? That will help him decide his ruling. But basically, the matter is now out of your hands, and you are no longer needed.

The director will leave and come back sometime later with a ruling. If he rules a return to 4♥ for 680, write the adjusted score down and say nothing. If he leaves the score at 1430, write the score down and say nothing. There is nothing to be said: the director gave a ruling, and if you don't like it, you can lodge an appeal after the session. The same applies to your opponents.

Summarizing

You are not a policeman or official Protector of Ethics. If someone does something doubtful, but it doesn't cost you on the scorecard, don't make an issue of it. In the vast majority of cases, the person is just an honest citizen who's come to have an enjoyable game of bridge. He hasn't come expecting to have his integrity questioned.

When a hesitation occurs, and the hesitator's partner subsequently takes a positive action, confirm the hesitation with your opponents. This provides good protection for you in the event that your opponents may later deny the hesitation when the heat is on.

Only call the director when you have discovered that you might deserve an adjustment. Usually this is at the end of the play.

When the director arrives, don't get into a bridge argument with him or your opponents. It's undignified. Just relate the facts, and let the director do his job.

**AT THE VICTOR CHAMPION CUP
Bill Jacobs**

We haven't had a juicy lead problem for a while – this one is worth an airing, from the Swiss Pairs at the VCC:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♦	6♠

With no one vulnerable, partner deals and opens with a natural weak two in diamonds. South concludes the auction with 6♠. What do you lead as West with:

♠ 86 ♥ AQ10942 ♦ Q10 ♣ A93

It would seem that declarer is very, very black. He hasn't tried to ask for aces, so you can pencil in a heart void. And partner has bid diamonds, so declarer must have a powerful black two suiter.

On that basis, the only good you can do with your opening lead is to limit declarer from ruffing clubs in dummy. You should lead a trump.

♠ 86	♠ Q2	♠ 103
♥ AQ10942	♥ KJ8763	♥ 5
♦ Q10	♦ K9752	♦ AJ8643
♣ A93	♣ -	♣ Q642
	N W E S	
	♠ AKJ9754	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ KJ10875	

The trump lead is a killer (although declarer can give you a very nasty decision if he leads the ♣K at trick 2). If you lead anything else, then declarer can ruff two clubs, and drop your ♣A on the third round of the suit.

Declarer is missing 3 aces, but it is essential not to try to take one at trick 1. Of the 19 times 6♠ was bid, the trump lead was found on only 3 occasions, each time leading to the defeat of the contract. 16 times an ace was led, and in all except one case, the contract was made.

TIP OF THE MONTH

On Covering Honours

One of the soundest guidelines for defence is to 'cover an honour with an honour'. For example, in this layout:

♠ 9xxx	♠ Qx	♠ Kxx
	[] ♠ AJ10x	

If the queen is led from dummy, you should cover it with the king. This will eventually develop a trick for partner's 9. If you fail to cover, declarer can take 4 tricks in the suit.

But what if dummy has two or more honours?

♠ 10xx	♠ QJ9	♠ Kxx
	[] ♠ Axxx	

If you cover dummy's queen with your king, partner's 10 will be finessed on the way back. But if you duck the queen, and then cover the jack with the king on the second round, partner's 10 will score.

The correct form of the guideline is:

"Cover the last of dummy's honours."

Let's see it in another scenario:

♠ K9x	♠ J10x	♠ Qxx
	[] ♠ Axxx	

Play low on dummy's jack. That way your side can get two tricks. But if you cover the first honour, declarer can lead back towards dummy's 10x, and you score only one trick.

And one more thing

Like every guideline, there are exceptions:

♠ xxx	♠ QJ9x	♠ K10
	[] ♠ Axxx	

In this scenario, you had better cover the first honour, hoping your 10 will score later.



WELCOME TO
JOAN BUTTS BRIDGE.
Train your brain - play this game!

Two over One Game Force

2 Bridge Workshops with **Joan Butts**

The most recent and widespread trend in bidding has been the two-over-one game force (2/1) approach. If you'd like to try this, or simply want a better understanding of it, come to the

Victorian Bridge Association (VBA)
131 Poath Rd, Murrumbeena

on Saturday 25 July, 10.00 am – 2.30pm

These two workshops will cover: an introduction to 2/1, the 1NT response, rebids by opener and responder, and the choice between game and slam. NB: This is NOT a totally new system, just an improvement to certain parts of standard systems, and it's easy to learn. It will make your strong hand bidding more defined and clearer.

WORKSHOP 1 (10 AM – 12)

(1) Introduction to 2/1 Game Force & 1NT Forcing

Slight changes to standard bidding methods make it easier for your partnership to get to the best game, and to explore the possibility of slam. The response of 1NT is expanded to include 10–12 pt hands as well as the traditional 6-9 pts. It allows the partnership to avoid playing in doomed 1NT contracts, and also allows greater accuracy with major suit raises.

WORKSHOP 2 (12.30 PM – 2.30)

(2) Opener's Rebid & Game or Slam

The second bid by opener after a two over one response now gives a clear description of the opener's shape, as point count is not so important yet. You will have more room to reach good slams too. It is easier to decide at a lower level whether to go on to slam using two over one game force. Learn to combine cue bid with Blackwood to investigate controls.

Costs, including notes, \$45 for the day
For bookings email or call Cathie
Email: clachman@vba.asn.au ph: 9530 9006

Joan Butts Bridge Teacher | Author | Holidays & Events

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**Continuing Professional
Development Day for
BRIDGE TEACHERS
Presenter: Joan Butts
ABF National Teaching Coordinator**



Bridge teachers who wish to upgrade their own bridge skills, and who seek material for more advanced classes, are invited to attend this 6 hour, content-based day ...and it's FREE...

(NB: an ABF Teacher Training Program Certificate is desirable, but not essential, to attend)

When: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday July 26, 2015

Where: Victorian Bridge Association
131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena, 3163

Join us for the following:

Modern Bidding Techniques (examining the roles of Opener, Responder, Intervener, and Advancer)

Lunch provided

Funded by the ABF, with help from the VBA

For bookings please contact Cathie Lachman:
email: clachman@vba.asn.au Ph: (03) 9530 9006

For general information please contact Joan Butts:
email: joan@joanbuttsbridge.com mob: 0413772650

Completion of this workshop will offer 10 points towards ABF Teacher Accreditation, for teachers who have completed a Teacher Training Programme.