

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2004

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

CAFÉ CORNER

"USE IT OR LOSE IT"

After a promising start, patronage of the Bridge Players Café operated by Alex and Eva Hart has dropped off.

We need to look after them, so they can look after us!!!

Here are some suggestions on how we can help:

- Why not take home a cake for your partner or friend after the session.
- Try sharing a sandwich or a cake with someone if it is too big for you (Alex does not mind).

The taste and quality are great! Alex's prices are very reasonable!

It is a great facility for the club, but it is up to all of us to support it!

George Gaspar
President

FROM THE COUNCIL

Meet the new General Manager

It is with much pleasure that I commenced my new role with the VBA in mid-March.

I have already met a number of members and intend to meet as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months.

As you will appreciate, the first few weeks have largely been a process of getting acquainted with the major issues and challenges facing the VBA. Now it is down to action.

Your Council has set a primary goal of maximising the opportunities for the VBA to become more financially secure and thereby assuring our long-term future, for the benefit of all members. I will be making this my prime objective and, to be successful, I will be relying on your support.

I believe there are some great opportunities for us to pursue which will make best use of our wonderful new club rooms and enhance the playing experience for all members and guests.

I encourage everyone to volunteer any suggestions on ways to improve the club and to discuss any areas of concern or disappointment so that these can be addressed as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me during the day on 9530 9006, by email at david@vba.asn.au or come in and see me at the VBA offices.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you to make your membership of the VBA as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

Kind regards,
David Costelloe



Air Conditioning

Finally, all systems are GO!

The Air-conditioning specialist has given his report and recommendations, which have been accepted and approved by the committee. The tenders for the renovations and upgrades, the new ducting and the new super-doooper climate controls have been accepted.

Work will commence shortly, and soon our clubrooms will have an ideal atmosphere ... hopefully in more ways than one!



Victorian Open Team Playoff Vu-Graph

An online vugraph presentation of the 96-board Victorian Open Team Playoff will be undertaken through Bridge Base Online on the weekend of 17-18 April between the hours 11:00 am and 7:00 pm each day.

You can download the software needed to view the show for free from the BBO website (<http://www.bridgebase.com>).

This means that you can follow all the thrills and spills of the playoff in real time from the comfort of your own internet connection – a wonderful innovation that we will be seeing more of over time.

The VBA is also considering displaying some of the segments as a more traditional Vu-Graph show in the Tishler room of the VBA. At time of publication, this is likely to be immediately after the Saturday afternoon duplicate at approximately 4:30 pm



ANZAC Congress: 24-25 April

Swiss Pairs: Saturday 24th April 10 am
Swiss Teams: Sunday 25th April 10 am

Cash prizes!

Prizes for best Restricted Pair & Team!
Bridge Player's Café open throughout!

Entry forms available from the VBA.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ A53
Vul: E/W ♥ 97
♦ AJ9742
♣ J9

♠ KJ2
♥ 10842
♦ KQ3
♣ Q73

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	Pass	1♠
Pass		All pass	

Partner starts with ♠7, and you win ♠K. What is your next card?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 62
Vul: Both ♥ KQ83
♦ K65
♣ AQJ7

♠ AK109
♥ 10
♦ J10972
♣ 1092

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT*
Pass	4♥	All pass	2♥

* 12-14 HCP

You lead ♠A partner following with ♠3, and switch to ♦J, partner playing ♦8 (standard count). Declarer wins in hand with ♦A, takes ♥K and ♥Q and leads ♠6 to partner's ♠4, declarer's ♠Q. What next?

Solutions on page 3.



A fellow had made a bad bid and gone down doubled for 1400. "I'm sorry", he said to his partner. "I had a card misplaced". "Only one card?" asked his partner innocently
CHARLES GOREN



AUSTRALIAN TEAM PLAYOFFS

Victorians performed strongly at the Playoffs, played over a week in March. Evergreens Felicity Beale and Diana Smart qualified for the Women's team to compete in the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul. This is surely one of Australia's most enduring expert partnerships.

Sally Murray-White and Helen Snashall ran an extremely creditable sixth in the Womens.

On the Open side, the best result was from Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge, also finishing sixth. They have been prominent at the national level in recent years, but lack a certain recognition locally, as the following anecdote tells:

DEFINITION OF FAME Bill Jacobs

How does one define fame? Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge were unsure whether to be insulted or delighted at the following incident a few weeks back. It all started when Margaret Yuill and her husband Peter invited them to have a game of duplicate at the Williamstown Bridge Club one night after dinner. So off they went to the club, where they met club manager Tim Orr.

Margaret introduced the newcomers as her neighbours Cathy and Simon, to which Tim laughingly responded: "you're not related to *the* Cathy Chua and *the* Simon Hinge are you?"

"We *are* Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge," Simon replied. "You couldn't be," retorted Tim, "the real Chua and Hinge would not be playing a duplicate at Williamstown Bridge Club." "I promise you we are," said Cathy, but Tim would not be swayed.

There was only one solution: Simon produced his driver's licence and Cathy her passport and a red-faced Tim was finally convinced about the famous players appearing at his club. Cathy and Simon were introduced to the players at the end of the night so as not to cause consternation during the game ...

THE SETTING TRICK - SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: E ♠ A53
Vul: E/W ♥ 97
 ♦ AJ9742
 ♣ J9

♠ 87	♠ KJ2
♥ QJ3	♥ 10842
♦ 65	♦ KQ3
♣ A108652	♣ Q73

♠ Q10964
♥ AK65
♦ 108
♣ K4

After partner's lead of ♠7, you are in with ♠K. Partner's suggestion that you attack dummy's ruffing ability looks reasonable, but what about that diamond suit?

In fact as you can see, the diamonds can't be brought in unless declarer has two*. If so, you will have the lead again after winning ♦Q. So if you return a trump at trick two, you are not only helping to kill heart ruffs in dummy, you can eliminate the threat of the diamonds by returning a third trump after winning the diamond.

* Partner is unlikely to have a singleton diamond.

Problem 2

Dealer: E ♠ 62
Vul: Both ♥ KQ83
 ♦ K65
 ♣ AQJ7

♠ AK109	♠ 543
♥ 10	♥ J962
♦ J10972	♦ 84
♣ 1092	♣ K865

♠ QJ87
♥ A754
♦ AQ3
♣ 43

You have won your second trick and it looks as if partner may have a trump trick. Declarer seems to have ♠QJ, ♥A and ♦AQ. (You can't be sure about ♦Q – if partner has it, it's no help as you can't get in to cash another diamond). So assume ♦AQ with South and there is not enough room for ♣K

as well. Is there any chance that the club trick can go away? You can't be definite about this, but if there is a setting trick, it will have to come from ♠K and ♥J – what else? So play a club now in case partner can be endplayed into leading clubs.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

TEST YOUR PLAY

Dealer: E ♠ AJ8
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKQ92
 ♦ J96
 ♣ 65

 ♠ KQ10963
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A87
 ♣ A109

The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead is the heart six. Plan the play.

Solution on Page 8.

CONCERNING SCREENS Bill Jacobs

The 2004 Victorian Pennant qualifying rounds saw the bold introduction of screens into the knockout section of the event on Wednesday nights. This innovation is to be applauded and I look forward to the increasing usage of screens in major Victorian events.

For the uninitiated, bridge screens are placed diagonally across the bridge table so that each player cannot see his or her partner. Bids are written onto the bidding pad in the usual way, and after two players have made their bid, the pad is pushed under the screen so that the other two players can make their bids. After the opening lead is tabled, the

bottom portion of the screen is raised so that dummy and played cards can be seen by all, although partner's face is never revealed.

Because bids are only revealed to a player two-at-a-time, the bidding typically takes a little longer with screens, but this is a small price to pay for the enormous benefits that accrue.

History of Screens

WBF President Julius Rosenblum was the driving force behind the introduction of screens in the mid-70s. World bridge had been dominated for several decades by the great Italian Blue Team and the rest of the world, particularly America, could never quite work out why. The main motivation for the use of screens was that it apparently eliminated any possibility of cheating – illicit communication between partners would surely be impossible.

With screens to be deployed for the 1975 Bermuda Bowl (appropriately played in Bermuda), some Americans were apparently licking their chops at the prospect of a level playing field. Alfred Scheinwold, American non-playing captain, was the chief protagonist: after the 1974 Bowl was won convincingly by Italy, he wrote:

"Oh well, they did it to us again, but next year we'll have the screens. I've been saying for years that any good team can beat them on even terms ... I'll be there ready to eat my words if the Blue Team can still play as though they can read each other's minds."

Not surprisingly, the Bermuda Bowl began without much evidence of international goodwill, and things rapidly got worse. Indeed, the use of screens to prevent cheating in the 1975 Bermuda Bowl would have to rate as one of the most spectacular failures ever.

Shortly after the tournament's start, a monitor noticed an odd pattern of foot movements by the Italian pair Sergio Zucchelli and Gianfranco Facchini. (There were no impediments *beneath* the table.) Zucchelli would keep his feet still, whilst Facchini would occasionally lash out with a foot and press his partner's feet – one tap or two taps, left foot to right or right foot to left.

Several other independent observers confirmed the behaviour, and formal charges were duly laid. Whilst no conclusion other than bare-faced cheating seemed possible, the Appeals Committee diplomatically convicted the pair of "improper conduct" and issued a "severe reprimand".

Barriers were hastily placed under the tables! (And in case you are thinking of employing this novel mode of communication whilst playing with screens at the VBA, forget it – the screens are solid all the way to the floor.)

The final of the event between America and Italy was a spine-chilling affair, described as "war" by Italian star Giorgio Belladonna. It produced arguably the most famous hand in the history of bridge. With just 5 deals to go, Italy led by 12 imps:

Dealer: E ♠ QJ8
 Vul: N/S ♥ AJ965
 ♦ K82
 ♣ AQ

♠ 7652	♠ 43
♥ K432	♥ Q1087
♦ J53	♦ Q1064
♣ K10	♣ 754

♠ AK109
 ♥ -
 ♦ A97
 ♣ J98632

Hamman and Wolff bid this to 6NT by North making seven. In the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kantar	Garozzo	Eisen- berg	Bella- donna
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♥	Dble	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	Red'ble 5NT
Pass	7♣	All pass	

The Italian Precision auction went badly awry, but as you can see, the layout was friendly to say the least! After the heart opening lead was ruffed, Belladonna led a club to the 10 and queen, cashed the ace, broke into a flashing smile, and claimed. 12 imps and the match to Italy. If 7♣ had

failed, American would have won the Bermuda Bowl by 4 imps.

Now the analysts went to work – what would have happened if Kantar, West, had been inspired to follow to the first club with the *king* (which might rate as the best card ever played)? Now Belladonna would have had the option for playing for a layout like this:

♠ 765 ♥ K432 ♦ J6543 ♣ K	♠ QJ8 ♥ AJ965 ♦ K82 ♣ AQ
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♠ AK109 ♥ - ♦ A97 ♣ J98632	♠ 432 ♥ Q1087 ♦ Q10 ♣ 10754
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The play has started heart lead ruffed, club to the king and ace. Now declarer just needs three rounds of spades and two rounds of diamonds to stand up. Declarer ruffs a heart, and cashes three spades and two diamonds. A diamond is pitched on the heart ace, and a diamond ruffed, leaving:

♠ ♥ K ♦ J6 ♣	♠ ♥ J9 ♦ ♣ Q
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♠ 10 ♥ - ♦ ♣ J9	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ 1075
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South ruffs the spade 10 with the club queen, whilst East has to underuff, and is then trump-couped by the lead of another heart.

On the actual layout, of course, East would have ruffed the third round of spades!

When Belladonna was asked what he would have done had Kantar followed to the first club with the king, he is reported as responding: "I'd still be thinking about it".

As for Kantar, he is one of bridge's great humorists. When dummy was tabled with the doubleton AQ of clubs, he said he started searching through his spades for a third club, then his hearts, and diamonds. "If I had failed to notice another club hiding somewhere in my hand, I would have killed myself," he said. To which teammate Bob Hamman replied: "if you had missed a third club, you wouldn't have had to kill yourself – I'd have done it for you."

Meanwhile, Facchini and Zucchelli quietly disappeared from international bridge.

To my knowledge, the only other accusation of cheating when screens are in use involved Americans Dick Katz and Larry Cohen (not the Larry Cohen of the Law of Total Tricks), who were charged with using coughs and sniffs to communicate.

The Real Value

It was only as the years passed that the major benefit of screens became apparent. Screens generally eliminate the passing of Unauthorized Information from one partner to another. Because bids are displayed two-at-a-time, one cannot generally tell whether any hesitation is due to partner or an opponent. Other mannerisms and body language from partner, unauthorized information to you, are also unavailable.

Taking conscious or sub-conscious advantage of unauthorized information is one of the blights of the tournament game. Even the most ethical of players can fall prey to it. As Edgar Kaplan once wittily wrote: "Of all the people who have played the game, only you and I have never taken advantage of unauthorized information. And I am not completely certain about you."

Explaining Bids

One of the quirks of playing with screens is that you explain both your bids and your partner's bids to your "screenmate". This explanation is written down, to avoid it being overheard. Since artificial bids are usually explained twice, once on each side of the screen, pairs can get into some trouble when the explanations differ.

It is important to explain your system meaning, even if you are departing from it. For example, suppose you are playing Acol and pick up:

♠ J6 ♥ KJ42 ♦ J532 ♣ KJ5

Partner opens 1♠, and you hate your ratty 10-count sufficiently to decide to simply respond 1NT, rather than make the system bid of 2♦. Should your screenmate ask the meaning of 1NT, your correct answer is "6-9 points", despite the fact that you have 10, assuming that your partner, when asked about your 1NT bid by *his* screenmate, will also answer "6-9 points". The goal is for both players to give identical information – if they don't then trouble may be brewing.

Trouble with a capital T is what hit co-editors Jacobs and McCance in the final of the 1989 Open ANC, Victoria versus NSW. This was the auction, all vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
McCance	Wilsmore	Jacobs	Seres
1♥	Dble	Red'ble	Pass
Pass	1♠	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The vertical bar depicts the position of the screen. Here's what happened. Both Ian and I were asked by our respective screenmates what my 3♠ bid meant. Of course, we had never had this rather unusual auction before. I actually held a singleton spade and strong support for hearts, and answered my screenmate by writing "Splinter". After all, that is what I held, and what I intended by 3♠. Ian, on the other hand, wasn't so sure. He wrote "Cue?" as an explanation.

Avon Wilsmore was on lead with a hand including the spade ace. As he had got the explanation "Cue?", he assumed that I must have a spade void, so he tried a fancy low spade lead. This ran around to Ian's king, and he subsequently took 11 tricks for a one-imp pickup. (The actual layout has been lost in the mists of time.)

When our opponents subsequently learned of the mismatched explanations, they called the director, claiming that with the "correct" explanation of Splinter, a trump would have been led, and now declarer needs to play

rather well to make 4♥. Rightly or wrongly, the director adjusted the score to 4♥ down one. Naturally, Victoria appealed, and the Appeals Committee returned the score to 4♥ making 10 tricks (which is what happened at the other table on a trump lead), but fined us 3 imps for "not knowing our system".

Since Victoria eventually won the match by 6 imps, this decision was crucial.

What is the lesson here? My explanation of "Splinter" seemed fair enough at the time – after all, that is what I had; however it was not an accurate statement of our system which certainly hadn't addressed this unfamiliar auction. My correct explanation was: "undiscussed, but intended as splinter". This tells my screenmate all the facts: what I mean by my bid, and also that the partnership is not on firm ground. Meanwhile, Ian's explanation of "cue?" was a reasonable statement, if somewhat in shorthand, the question mark indicating that he is unsure.

The moral is: whether behind screens not – give a complete statement of the partnership agreement about a bid, including level of confidence!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE UPSETTING TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Dealer: E ♠ 62
Vul: Both ♥ KQ83
♦ K65
♣ AQJ7

♠ 543
♥ J962
♦ 84
♣ K865

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

* 12-14 HCP

Partner leads the ♠A and switches to the ♦J. Declarer wins the ♦K in dummy and immediately leads the ♥K.

What do you do? Decide before reading on.

(Think Music Here)

OK, time's up ... let's count tricks. You can reasonably expect to win the spade ace-king and your club king. A possible source of the fourth and setting trick is your long trump. But assuming declarer has ♥A10xx, he can pick off your jack with a finesse.

However you can throw some sand in declarer's eyes by dropping the *heart nine* on the first round of trumps. Declarer will likely play you for a singleton nine and cash the heart ace on the second round – now your jack scores. If you don't drop the nine, then declarer has only a one-way finesse and cannot go wrong. The nine is an obligatory false-card.

Here is the layout you envisage:

Dealer: E	♠ 62	
Vul: Both	♥ KQ83	
	♦ K65	
	♣ AQJ7	
	♠ AK98	♠ 543
	♥ 4	♥ J962
	♦ J10972	♦ 84
	♣ 1092	♣ K865
	♠ QJ107	
	♥ A1075	
	♦ AQ3	
	♣ 43	

Why is this article titled "The Un-Setting Trick"? Well, the actual deal is given on page 3, and partner has the singleton 10 of hearts. If you find the thoughtful falsecard of the nine, then you have succeeded in telescoping your heart holding and handing declarer an unmakeable contract.

Unlucky! But is it really? Your partner could have protected you from yourself by *switching to the heart ten at trick two!*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

A doctor, concerned about the physical condition of one of his bridge-playing patients, during a regular check-up asked, "Do you get much exercise?"

"Only when I sit East-West," was the reply.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

TEST YOUR PLAY - SOLUTION

	♠ AJ8	
	♥ AKQ92	
	♦ J96	
	♣ 65	
♠ 542		♠ 7
♥ 65		♥ J8743
♦ K102		♦ Q543
♣ KJ743		♣ Q82
	♠ KQ10963	
	♥ 10	
	♦ A87	
	♣ A109	

West leads the heart six against your 6♠. If you won the heart ace and started thinking about what to do, then you have failed the test.

The correct play is to duck the heart around to your 10! Unless the heart lead is a singleton, or spades are 4-0, this guarantees the contract with six spades, four hearts and two minor suit aces.

Any other plan (such as trying to establish the long heart with a ruff, or ruffing a minor suit loser) requires much more good fortune.

If you are interested in complicated end-positions, try answering the following riddle: "what is the only opening lead to defeat 6♠ double-dummy?" Answer at bottom of page.

**RECENT RESULTS****Victorian Pennant**

- 1 S. Hinge, C. Chua, C. Hughes, A. Sarten, W. Jacobs, R. Fruewirth
- 2 B. Howe, H. Lyngsjø, T. Chira, D. Hohor
- =3 S. Arber, H. De Jong, R. Lel, P. Kufcir
- =3 W. Scott, J. Stark, R. Gallus, D. Smith, D. Beckett.

Victorian Masters Pairs*Section A - Championship*

- 1 A. Sarten, S. Tishler
- 2 G. Gaspar, B. Tencer
- 3 S. Gerdan, R. Szabo-Bencze

Section A - Plate

- 1 E. Hardy, P. Kalina
- 2 M. Woods, T. Chira
- 3 G. Pick, H. Blakeman

Section B

- 1 K. Lee, G. Wikinski
- 2 T. Kay, L. Bastick
- 3 M. Yuill, G. Hill

Section C

- 1 R. Rosenberg, B. Rosenberg
- 2 L. Vary, A. Vary
- 3 J. Hare, R. Begg

February Duplicate Champions

Mon afternoon: Tess Gillies, Sam Herskope

Mon evening: Ivan Margitta, Nicolas Spencer

Tue evening: Chris Depasquale, Frank Meerbach

Thu afternoon: Lilli Allgood, Peter Havlicek

Thu evening: Lilli and Ray Allgood

Sat afternoon: Rae and John Harband



**2004 McCance Seniors Teams
and
Victor Champion Cup**

**June 10-14, 2004
Eden on the Park**

B there or B ☐



Solution to Test You Play double dummy exercise:

The only lead to beat 6♠ is the club jack.

For a full explanation, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the VBA's Antarctic office. (Thanks to Ishmael Del Monte for this hand.)