

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2005

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

## FROM THE VBA PRESIDENT

June has been an extremely exciting month. The Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth Teams have been finalized and all captains have been decided. The captains are: Bill Jacobs Open Team, Martin Willcox Women's Team, Laurie Kelso Seniors Teams and Andrew Mill Youth Team. We wish our State representatives every success at the National Championships in July.

The Paul Lavings workshops conducted at the VBA and country affiliated clubs were most successful. Paul ran interesting and challenging sessions throughout Victoria and all sessions were well attended.

Our membership has now reached 434 members which is extremely gratifying and I would like to thank you all for your support.

Recently we donated some of our older style chairs and grey side tables to the Carnegie Primary School. The school was very excited especially the Prep Grade for the side tables and the chairs for the Staff Room. Additionally we have donated the balance of the chairs to the Salvation Army. As a consequence of this tidy up activity the computer area for members is well on the way to setup with expected access around August/September.

Cathie Lachman completed another Beginners Course on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and her graduates will now move to Supervised Play. Beginners lessons over the last year have been extremely successful and it's fantastic to see that some of the graduates have now progressed to duplicate play. The next course is scheduled to commence on September 1<sup>st</sup> and already there are 6 people enrolled.

Rose Stone, a day time duplicate player recently won a writing competition conducted by the St Kilda council. Also did you see the article about George Gaspar in the Glen Eira-Caulfield Leader newspaper – a copy is on

the notice boards. Well done Rose and George.

Recently we purchased a new computer for the Chief Tournament Director's office and in time the old computer will be retired. Laurie Kelso is working on including Deep Finesse analysis on ALL hand records for every session. This is something we have been aiming to achieve for sometime and I'm sure will be welcomed by all players.

The VCC was held at the beginning of June and was very successful. A big thank you to Diana Jacobs, Martin Willcox and his team for the excellent organization and running of this event.

Jeannette Collins

## Office Manager Required

The Australian Bridge Federation, incorporated in Canberra requires the services of an Office Manager, location Canberra. An attractive salary package is being offered, hours are 9-5 with 1 hour off for lunch, 5 days a week with additional secretarial interstate work at Committee meetings, normally held on weekends.

Duties to include, keeping records, maintenance and security of the ABF office property, writing minutes of meetings general office duties and liaising with ABF Office Bearers, State Associations, State Presidents and International bodies. Knowledge of Bridge or Bridge administration is highly desirable.

Applications in the first instance to The ABF Secretary at:

[rgrenside@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rgrenside@ozemail.com.au) by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005 along with your curriculum vitae and availability.

## Victorian Open Team Update

Rob Fruewirth and Chris Hughes had to withdraw from the Open team due to work commitments. Ian McCance and Ben Thompson have been added to the team, which is now Chua – Hinge, Jacobs – Sarten and McCance – Thompson. Both editors will be barracking for them!

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

♠ K875  
♥ QJ54  
♦ A5  
♣ 872

♠ AQJ103  
♥ K6  
♦ KQ4  
♣ AQ10

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

West leads a trump, which are 2-2. Blind Freddie can make 6♠ if the club finesse is on, but can you see an extra chance?

Solution on Page 6.

**Collapse of Stout Party**

Ziggy Konig was not going well in the VCC. Languishing in the high table numbers, he had lost interest and was playing much faster than the field. This resulted in numerous calls for "Caddy!" Caddy is Max (son of Cathie Lachman and Simon Henbest), who struggles to keep up.

Ziggy, in desperation: "how can I get a more attractive caddy?"

Max, quick as a flash: "play at table 1"

**VBA Website**

The VBA website, recently revamped, can be found at: <http://www.vba.asn.au/> Among other things, the web site provides the following resources:

- Archive of recent bulletins
- Results of recent events
- Full annual calendar
- On-line entry to upcoming events

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS****Problem 1:**

Dealer: N ♠ K95  
Vul: N/S ♥ A84  
♦ 5  
♣ AJ7532

♠ A43  
♥ K  
♦ K109842  
♣ Q98

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You lead ♦10 to ♦J and ♦A. Declarer trumps a diamond, partner following ♦Q. Next come ♣A, ♣6, ♣10 and a club to ♣4, ♣K. Declarer trumps another diamond with ♥A, trumps a club, trumps his last diamond with ♥8. Partner over-ruffs ♥J and returns a heart to your king. Now what?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: E ♠ 10932  
Vul: N/S ♥ QJ92  
♦ 104  
♣ 754

♠ QJ87  
♥ 1083  
♦ A765  
♣ A10

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣#	Pass	3NT#
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\* 20-22 HCP

# Puppet: opener has no 4 or 5 card major

You lead ♠7, partner winning the ♠A as declarer follows with ♠5. Irritatingly, partner switches to ♣9, declarer playing ♣K.

What is going on here, and what should you do?

Solutions on page 7.

## VCC RASHOMON Bill Jacobs

The recently concluded Victor Champion Cup saw strong Victorian performances, and so it should be.

Simon Hinge, on the second-seeded<sup>1</sup> Klinger team, won the event handily. Grant Kilvington, Charlie Snashall and David Smith together with Canberra's Arjuna Delivera started as the thirteenth-seeds<sup>2</sup> and ran third. Blaine Howe – Neil Ewart and Bill Jacobs were on separate teams that tied for fourth.

Let's look at the event from the perspectives of these four placed teams.

### Blaine Howe – Return to Form

Blaine wrote: “Momentum and confidence are two things that are hard to define but you seem to need them both if you are going to have good results against strong opposition.



“Neil Ewart (pictured, right) and I have been in one of those troughs for a couple of months that partnerships seem to fall into from time to time. You start wondering when the good stuff will return.”

The form certainly returned with two very impressive slam auctions. This was the first:

Blaine	Neil
♠ K654	♠ AQ97
♥ KQ6	♥ A84
♦ KQ	♦ J9
♣ AK53	♣ J1096

2♣	2♦
2NT (20-21)	3♣ (puppet stayman)
3♦	3♥ (shows spades)
4♠	4NT
5♥ (2 key cards)	5♠
Pass	

<sup>1</sup> I know it's not particularly relevant for a Swiss, but which planet did the seeding committee come from? Simon's team was two-thirds of the Australian team to play in Seoul, and should have been top seeded.

<sup>2</sup> Pluto perhaps?

Most pairs reached this mildly sub-par slam, which is not surprising given 32 points, a 4-4 fit and plenty of controls. The first excellent decision was Blaine's not to cue-bid over 3♥, downgrading his hand due to the short KQ in diamonds. Then when Neil discovered that one key-card was missing, he used the inference from Blaine's failure to cue-bid that Blaine was unlikely to be able to cover all his losers, and so stayed at the 5 level. Trumps were 3-2 but the club finesse failed, so that was 11 imps in.

For the flip side (all vulnerable):

Neil		Blaine
♠ 1094		♠ AKQ865
♥ 7		♥ QJ4
♦ A82		♦ 643
♣ AKQ942		♣ 6
	(1♥)	1♠
4NT		5♠ (2 keys + ♠Q)
6♠		Pass

Neil was able to take advantage of his partnership's policy of playing sound overcalls – he brought out the sledgehammer to reach the good slam (which basically needs either black suit to divide evenly, or the spade jack be singleton – spades were 2-2 and clubs 4-2). Another 13 imps in.

There is a very fine line in good bidding. Whilst Blaine and Neil reached the correct contract on both these hands, it would have taken just a little bit of bad luck (spades 3-2 and club finesse working on the first hand; spades 3-1 and clubs 4-2 on the second hand) for them to have lost 24 imps for their efforts.

### Bill Jacobs – Lessons in Humility

My main contribution to this event was to be the husband of the convenor. This meant donating our kitchen table for two months, to be used for entry forms, cheques, bank statements, phone messages and the like. Normal kitchen table usage during this period was impossible.

My job was to load entries onto Martin Willcox's web site - a heavy responsibility, as within an hour of my making any mistake, Diana would receive a panicky phone call from the aggrieved party.

I played this year with David Beauchamp from Sydney, along with Peter Reynolds and Brad Coles: two pickup partnerships, the latter of which had three times as much partnership experience as the former (3 hours on BBO as compared to 1 hour on BBO).

Somehow we were seeded as high as sixth (what were the seeding comm ... never mind), and we actually beat that seeding, due partly I think to the honeymoon effect. This phenomenon is where brand new partnerships tend to perform well in their first outing, probably because a sense of mutual contempt hasn't yet kicked in.

I can't think of any outstanding hands to report, but there was an outstanding incident. In match 5, we drew a NSW Youth team, and I played against Adam and Nabil Edgton (pictured below with Simon Hinge and Clare Rasmussen) – two boys with a great attitude and lots of potential, but whose voices have not yet broken.



On the second board, I perpetrated a truly ridiculous defence to 3NT and let it make (I can promise you, the actual hand will never see the light of day, but if I told you that we had 5 obvious tricks to take, you would get the idea).

There was little of interest in the remainder of the set – I was mainly confined to following suit – and we duly lost the match. After the match, apparently the younger boy asked my partner David Beauchamp: "is your partner the team sponsor?"

### Charlie Snashall – Never too old to learn

Charlie (pictured below with Grant Kilvington, Arjuna Delivera and David Smith) writes:



Board 7, match 1 and board 6 match 4 were companion boards on my learning curve.

Dealer: S     ♠ -  
 Vul: All     ♥ K9742  
                   ♦ AK864  
                   ♣ AK2

♠ 962	♠ KQJ7
♥ A10653	♥ J8
♦ QJ72	♦ 10953
♣ 10	♣ 543

♠ A108543  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ QJ9876

On the first hand above I passed as dealer and clubs were never mentioned as Kilvo and I climbed to the dizzy heights of 2♠ which I made for +140. Although we somehow gained 10 imps for this uninspired effort my teammates were somewhat critical of my opening pass. They were able to point out that Uncle Ian<sup>3</sup> opened the hand 1♠ and thereafter got to the unbeatable 6♣. (*Eva and Andrew Samuel, fresh from their win in the Thwaites Mixed Pairs, also got to 6♣ by opening 1♠ and reversing into 3♣, a macho but quite sensible way of treating the South hand ... BJ*)

Well I've never been a fan of light openings but I resolved to show them that I wasn't too young to bid like Ian. I had to wait until match four to get my chance:

<sup>3</sup> Co-editor Ian McCance, for the uninitiated

Dealer: E ♠ 103  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q42  
 ♦ KQ109  
 ♣ K832

♠ AQ9                      ♠ KJ742  
 ♥ K1085                  ♥ 93  
 ♦ A8642                  ♦ 3  
 ♣ 7                          ♣ A10965

♠ 865  
 ♥ AJ76  
 ♦ J75  
 ♣ QJ4

I opened the East hand above 1♠. Kilvo sniffed the air, decided against any slam heroics and pretty soon I was in 4♠. They led a club, I won that, tried a heart to the king and was soon writing down +620. That was worth 10 imps when the stodgy youngster at the other table thought my hand was a preempt!

**Simon Hinge – How ever did he win?**



*The winning team: Simon Hinge, Bruce Neill, Ron Klinger and Zoltan Nagy*

Standard journalistic technique when writing up tournaments is to ask a winner for some hands. The objective is to provide the reader with some insight on how the winners win. Simon duly obliged with 6 deals on which his team ended up -51 imps!!

Simon was under some pressure, as the same team, with Boris Tencer instead of Simon playing with Zoltan Nagy, had just won the McCance Senior Teams. He came through with flying colours.

13 imps disappeared on this instructive bidding problem:

Dealer: N ♠ 97643  
 Vul: All ♥ Q532  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ AQ52

♠ K10                      ♠ QJ  
 ♥ A1097                  ♥ 864  
 ♦ KJ10863              ♦ AQ754  
 ♣ 9                          ♣ 743

♠ A852  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ 92  
 ♣ KJ1086

West	North	East	South
	Nagy		Hinge
	2♣*	Pass	2♦**
3♦	Pass♠	Pass	Pass♣♣

- \* weak in diamonds, or weak (5-4) in the majors, or 21-22, or 8 playing tricks somewhere
- \*\* to play if weak in diamonds
- ♠ one of the weak options
- ♣♣ -13 imps

Simon and Zolly were on firm ground until West made a natural bid, the dastard. Now Simon wasn't sure – maybe West thought he was cue-bidding for the majors, and North had diamonds after all.

Since 5♠ was on and N/S couldn't even beat 3♦, this was a black mark for multiple-option weak openings.

Dealer: E ♠ J  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ97  
 ♦ J876  
 ♣ QJ64

♠ KQ10942              ♠ A873  
 ♥ 82                      ♥ 10  
 ♦ 954                    ♦ KQ103  
 ♣ 52                      ♣ AK93

♠ 65  
 ♥ KJ6532  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ 1087

West	North	East	South
Hinge	Lavings	Nagy	
		1♣	2♥
?	5♥	?	

How should E/W find their right level in spades (which is certainly not the 6-level, which is where Hinge-Nagy ended up, for -12 imps)? Simon didn't supply details, but

presumably he chose as West to show an unlimited hand with spades, and after Paul Lavings' beautifully timed 5♥ bid, Nagy had little choice but to blast to slam off two aces.

Playing negative free bids here can help (so 2♠ by West is natural and non-forcing – West starts with a double with good hands), but has its downsides. Another approach, which I currently use in partnership with Robert Fruewirth, is to play *all* jumps as natural and non-forcing, so West can bid 3♠ here. This is a fertile area for partnership discussion.

And finally, a good result for the winners:

Dealer: W     ♠ Q4  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ K1042  
                   ♦ AK82  
                   ♣ 1053

♠ AKJ8652	♠ 109
♥ J	♥ 9863
♦ J73	♦ 1095
♣ A4	♣ 9862

♠ 73  
 ♥ AQ75  
 ♦ Q64  
 ♣ KQJ7

West	North Nagy	East	South Hinge
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

That was +620. At the other table, Ron Klinger as West opened with a multi-meaning 1♣ - North passed, and eventually, N/S balanced into a heart partscore, not unreasonably.

Simon did very well to finesse the auction, which allowed West to get his spade suit "out of his system". So much is in the timing ... when I sat South I decided to blast 4♥ after partner doubled 1♠, thinking that this might pre-empt the opponents out of the profitable spade sacrifice that I thought they had. This had the reverse effect when West was forced to bid a winning 4♠ "blind".

**Beginners Classes**

Next course begins Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**TWELFTH TRICK – SOLUTION**  
**Bill Jacobs**

♠ K875		
♥ QJ54		
♦ A5		
♣ 872		
♠ 96		♠ 42
♥ 108732		♥ A9
♦ 932		♦ J10876
♣ KJ6		♣ 9543
	♠ AQJ103	
	♥ K6	
	♦ KQ4	
	♣ AQ10	

6♠ is presented as a problem, so you know the club finesse is not going to work.

After drawing trumps with the ace and queen, declarer crossed to the diamond ace, played a heart to the king, and then returned a heart, on which he cleverly played low from dummy. East's ace beat thin air, and now there were two discards on the queen and jack of hearts. Contract made.

Correct line? Perhaps, and well done if you spotted it, however it is not the only way to play the hearts. After drawing trumps, you could play three rounds of diamonds, then lead the heart six to the queen and a heart back to the king. This will make the hand if West was the one who started with Ax in hearts, as he will now be endplayed!

Full credit if you saw that you could play someone for Ax in hearts.

*Extra* credit if you saw that it could be either East or West.

*Extra extra* credit if you can work out what I believe is the better line: to play East or West for Ax in hearts. My answer on page 7.

**Obscure Reference Department**

There are a couple of curious titles in this month's bulletin: "Collapse of stout party" and "Rashomon". Appropriate kudos to any reader who can work out the references, *without* resorting to searching the internet.

## SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

### Ian McCance

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: N     ♠ K95  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ A84  
                   ♦ 5  
                   ♣ AJ7532

♠ A43		♠ Q10872
♥ K		♥ J532
♦ K109842		♦ QJ
♣ Q98		♣ 64

♠ J6  
 ♥ Q10976  
 ♦ A763  
 ♣ K10

Whew! If you have followed all that, declarer is down to 4 trumps and a lone spade if he began with 6 spades, in which case there is nothing to be done, but if he started with 5 trumps partner has 2 left and declarer can be forced out of control. Just continue a diamond.

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: E     ♠ 10932  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ QJ92  
                   ♦ 104  
                   ♣ 754

♠ QJ87		♠ A64
♥ 1083		♥ 765
♦ A765		♦ 93
♣ A10		♣ 98632

♠ K5  
 ♥ AK4  
 ♦ KQJ82  
 ♣ KQJ

What is partner up to? The ♣9 is hardly encouraging of clubs – declarer probably therefore has ♣KQJ. To see what partner is thinking of, you could refer back to the March Setting Trick #2, where a club return was recommended on the East cards (catering to building the setting trick when West has ♠ KJxx ♥ xxx ♦ Axxx ♣ KJ).

Partner wouldn't do this to you unless he had three spades, and therefore knew that you could safely continue spades yourself. Win ♣A and continue ♠8.

## RECENT RESULTS

**Victor Champion Cup**

Congratulations to Boris Tencer for his win in the McCance (Seniors) trophy, and to Simon Hinge for a likewise performance in the Victor Champion Cup – see elsewhere in this bulletin.

**Victorian Mixed Teams**

- 1 I. McCance, F. Beale, R. van Riel, B. Thompson, D. Smart, J. Fust
- 2 C. Rothfield, J. Rothfield, S. Lester, R. Kaplan, C. Snashall, G. Kilvington
- 3 P. Schroor, D. Sheather, J. Stark, K. Chan, M. Willcox

**VBA Open Pairs***Championship*

- 1 H. de Jong – G. Gaspar
- 2 J. Dunstan – S. Arber
- 3 S. Gerdan – J. Selwyn

*Plate*

- 1 J. Fleiszig – G. Wikinski
- 2 N. Ewart – B. Howe
- 3 J. Leach – J. Gaspar

*Consolation*

- 1 L. Hickman – P. Corrigan
- 2 L. Allgood – P. Havlicek
- 3 P. Kriksciunas – A. Segal

**Victorian Aggregate Pairs***North/South*

- 1 R. Gallus – B. Howe
- 2 J. Savage – A. Paul
- 3 J. Magee – T. Strong

*East/West*

- 1 S. Klofa – S. Collins
- 2 T. Chira – D. Hohor
- 3 M. Chrapot – I. Bram

## TWELFTH TRICK – EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT

Playing a heart from dummy (hoping that East has Ax) might also work if East, holding long hearts to the ace, dashes up with the ace for fear that you will either win the singleton king, or play the singleton 10 thus exposing him to a ruffing finesse.

### RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members who have been recently promoted to a higher grade of Master:

Graduate Master	Tim Blizzard Pamela Craig Robert Hosking
Club Master	Joseph Getreu Tim Kilham Val Trice
Local Master	Guy Griffin Aron Grinberg Sonia Grinberg
*Regional Master	Jenny Chaenkel Bob Slutzkin
State Master	Andy Hegedus
*National Master	Michael Granozski
Bronze Life Master	Penny Corrigan
Silver Life Master	Lilly Milman Margaret Yuill
Gold Life Master	Margaret Tildesley
Grand Master	David Morgan Andrew Samuel Eva Samuel

#### Sessional Director Wanted

The Melbourne Contract Bridge Centre is looking for a Director for Friday afternoon bridge sessions, on a permanent basis.

Additionally, MCBC is looking for directors on a temporary basis for the months of August and September. Sessions to be covered are Monday daytime, Monday night supervised and Wednesday night supervised. The same director is not required to work all three sessions and MCBC is willing to consider suitable candidates interested in directing one of more of these sessions.

Please phone: George Rogerson, Ian Mansell or Dave Rogerson on 9853 1449



### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Australia-Wide Novice Pairs Competition

Tuesday Evening 26<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

Charge: \$11.00

Each player receives an instruction booklet  
and there is more than \$2,000 worth of  
prizes.



## NSW Bridge Association and ABF present ANC 2005

(Gold Masterpoints & Australian Team Selection  
Playoff Qualifying Point Events)

23 July – 5 August

### NSW Bridge Association & Sydney Masonic Centre

☆ *The first two Aussie pairs in the Open  
Butler will be members of the Australian  
team for the Commonwealth Nations Bridge  
Championship in Melbourne in March 2006 –  
leading into the Commonwealth Games!*

More details on our website  
[www.abf.com.au/events/anc](http://www.abf.com.au/events/anc)

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