

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

VCC: Victoria's Annual Gold Point Tournament

Queen's Birthday Weekend at Bayview on the Park

Thursday, Friday 8th, 9th June. 7 Sessions:

McCance Seniors Swiss Pairs - **Playoff points and Gold points**
Women's Swiss Pairs - **Playoff points and Gold points**
Restricted Swiss Pairs - **Under 100 masterpoints**

Saturday, Sunday, Monday 10th, 11th, 12th June. 10 Sessions:

Victor Champion Cup Teams - **Playoff points and Gold points**

- Entry forms:
- 1) At your club
 - 2) Download from the ABF web site:
<http://www.abf.com.au/events/vcc/index.html>
 - 3) Ring Diana Jacobs on 0413 003 633

An Intruder at the VBA

On Thursday evening 27th April an intruder entered the VBA premises and stole money from the Café. This is an unfortunate incident but highlights how vulnerable we are from the Poath Road entrance.

As a result, the front door will be locked following the start of play of all daytime and evening sessions (approximately 11:35 am and 7:35 pm) and reopened at 3:05 pm and 10:45 pm to allow players to leave.

All latecomers will need to enter the playing area via the carpark entrance.

Victorian Open Team selected ...

Congratulations to Adam Sarten, Chris Hughes, Wally Scott, Jeff Fust, Andrew Mill and Rob van Riel on winning the Victorian Open Team Playoff. Next stop ... Adelaide.

THE SECOND TRICK

Dealer: N ♠ AKJ10
Vul: nil ♥ AK
♦ AKQ643
♣ 8

♠ 8632
♥ 5432
♦ J9
♣ AK10

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

* 5-8 points, balanced, less than 3 diamonds

You lead a top club, partner plays the 3 (standard signals) and declarer the 5.

Where is the Second Trick that you need to beat the contract?

Solution on Page 6.

FOR STARTERS ...
Bill Jacobs

You hold as West, non-vulnerable versus vulnerable:

- ♠ J4
- ♥ AQ9873
- ♦ K5
- ♣ K105

and open 1♥. The auction proceeds:

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
1♥	D'ble	2♥	4♠
?			

What do you bid?

Are you tempted to bid 5♥? At favourable vulnerability, perhaps it is a good sacrifice.

You should pass 4♠. Apart from the sixth heart, your hand is a normal minimum 1♥ opening. To consider a 5♥ bid here, you need to have much more extreme shape – you need to be looking at singletons, or even better, voids!

You pass 4♠ and that becomes the final contract.

What do you lead?

I would lead the heart ace. It is normal procedure to lead the suit that has been bid and raised by your side. If partner has ♥K (likely), well and good. If RHO has it, it's probably facing a singleton in dummy, and the discard that you set up may not be of any use to declarer. And if LHO has it, then declarer can play towards ♥K anyway.

As to the alternatives, leading from a minor could work out, but why should it? Too speculative. And leading a trump seems pointless – it effectively does declarer's work for him.

You lead ♥A, and see:

- ♠ K96
- ♥ 4
- ♦ Q1084
- ♣ AQJ82

- ♠ J4
- ♥ AQ9873
- ♦ K5
- ♣ K105

Partner follows with ♥6, declarer with ♥2.

What do you play at trick 2?

Defence at bridge is one of life's great unanswered questions, like "why can't you tickle yourself?" Very few defence problems are solvable with 100% certainty, but this one comes close.

The first thing to realise is that the club suit is ominous. It looks like a great source of tricks for declarer, and your club king is a dead man walking.

When things look to be lying well for declarer, as in this case, the best approach to defence is to visualise a "miracle" holding and play for it. (Conversely, if things look bad for declarer, you do the reverse: find a passive play and let declarer take all the losing finesses.)

In this case, the miracle you need to play for is partner holding the diamond ace. In that case, you can switch to ♦K, play a second diamond and receive a ruff to defeat the contract.

As with all good bridge articles, the recommended play is the winning one, as the full layout is:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ K96 ♥ 4 ♦ Q1084 ♣ AQJ82 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 73 ♥ J1065 ♦ A632 ♣ 653 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ J4 ♥ AQ9873 ♦ K5 ♣ K105 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ AQ10852 ♥ K2 ♦ J97 ♣ 97 |

(Notice what happens if South and East's ♦A and ♠A are swapped. Your ♦K switch doesn't work, but on that layout, your ♦K was never taking a trick anyway – declarer's diamond losers are discarded on clubs.)

Points to remember:

- Don't push the bidding to high levels unless you have real shape.
- If your suit has been raised, be prepared to lead it, even if you have a tenace like ace-queen. In particular, don't lead trumps just because nothing else looks attractive.
- If things look good for declarer, *attack!* If things look bad for declarer, go passive.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: N ♠ AKJ10
 Vul: nil ♥ AK
 ♦ AKQ643
 ♣ 8

 ♠ 9754
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ 107
 ♣ QJ965

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

* 5-8 points, balanced, less than 3 diamonds

West leads ♣K, and switches to ♦J. Both defenders will follow to the second round of diamonds.

Plan the play. Solution on Page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Do you know what it takes to produce pre-dealt boards?

All regular players at the VBA know that every bridge session conducted at the VBA uses pre-dealt boards with hand records. This is a service the VBA is proud to deliver and

feedback indicates that all players love it, but did you know what is actually involved?

Well here we go ...

Periodically I prepare a board dealing schedule from the VBA calendar (generally in 2 month batches). This is sent electronically to Laurie Kelso. He edits the file inserting the number of sets of boards required per session and the board dealing code. Dealing codes are either generated by the VBA for duplicate sessions or purchased from the ABF for State competitions. The schedule is then returned to me for printing and insertion into the dealing book kept in the board dealing room upstairs and another copy is retained in the office as a record.

Laurie will then, at home, analyse the hands using the Deep Finesse program and store them on a portable device he brings into the VBA. He then loads the files onto 3 separate computers. One for the travelling score sheets, one for the hand records and one on the computer upstairs for the board dealer.

The board dealers use the codes and the dealing machine to deal the sets of boards. Generally a board dealer will deal somewhere between 10 and 20 sets per session (that is a lot of boards!). One set is 32 boards. The boards are tagged and stored securely.

In the meantime I print the travelling score sheets from the preloaded program, sometimes they are numbered, sometimes they are coloured. The score sheets are then guillotined and folded in half. Next they are threaded into the backs of the boards.

Finally a hand record is printed with the appropriate heading and photocopied in readiness for the session. Typically on a Monday evening 120 hand records are required.

The production of a set of boards involves Laurie, me, the board dealer and Hazel Schwerdt who does the threading and photocopying of the hand records. It's a labour intensive exercise that is relentless. So behind the scenes there is lots of activity and all to deliver you enjoyment for an \$8-\$10 table fee.

Cathie Lachman

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ K764
 Vul: nil ♥ AJ63
 ♦ 9
 ♣ J943

♠ A932
 ♥ 742
 ♦ 108753
 ♣ 7

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

* 20-22

No four or five card major

You lead ♦5 to ♦J and ♦A. Declarer now plays ♠J. What do you think about that? Do you think about that?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ Q
 Vul: nil ♥ QJ106
 ♦ 652
 ♣ Q8743

♠ A73
 ♥ 8743
 ♦ A10
 ♣ J1092

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

You lead ♣J to partner's ♣A. Back comes ♠5 to your ♠A. You go passive – ♥7, won by South's ♥A. Next ♥K, then ♣K (partner ♠4), ♣Q (partner ♦3), then two more hearts (partner had three, declarer discards a spade and a diamond). Next comes a diamond to declarer's ♦J and you win ♦A.

You have three tricks and are looking at a fourth. Where is the fifth trick coming from?

Solutions on page 6.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Bill,

I read with interest your piece about the "gamesmanship" of the Indian pair at the Commonwealth tournament. Whilst I concur with Cathy Chua in a general sense (and, specifically, in relation to the Australian cricket team) that behaviour designed to put opponents off their game is wrong, I don't believe for one minute that the named Indian players would be so inclined. Knowing them, it was simply a spontaneously happy reaction to a situation, unseemly as it may have looked – not everyone can behave like John Armstrong all the time.

Regards, Khokan Bagchi

From the ABF

The Management Committee of the ABF is seeking more information about the life and times of Jimmy O'Sullivan. The ABF has been a little lax in detailing famous Australian Bridge Players, Past Presidents and identities and has far too little information on Jimmy. Anything and everything will help, especially old photos or memorabilia.

Any information should be forwarded to either Keith McDonald or the Secretariat.

Richard Grenside
 ABF Secretary

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

2006 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAMS
Bill Jacobs

2006 was the breakthrough year for the two J's – Jenny Thompson and Jeannette Collins, winning the National Women's Teams in Canberra – Jenny has had many near misses in this event. Their teammates were Karen Creet, Sue Bird, Julia Hoffman and Nola Church. The losing finalists included Helen Snashall and Sally Murray-White.

I asked for some hands from the final, and these follow. They give a good indication of how to win a major event.

Good System

Dealer: E ♠ AKJ972
 Vul: E/W ♥ 94
 ♦ 95
 ♣ Q109

♠ 3 ♠ Q108654
 ♥ 108 ♥ Q762
 ♦ QJ10864 ♦ -
 ♣ AK62 ♣ 875

♠ -
 ♥ AKJ53
 ♦ AK732
 ♣ J43

West	North	East	South
	Jenny		Jeannette
		Pass	1♣*
2♦	D'ble**	All Pass	

* 15+
 ** 9+

West had a very reasonable 2♦ overcall, but N/S had the system to nail them. 2♦ went down 800, against 400 in 3NT at the other table.

Good Judgment

Dealer: N ♠ KQ5
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q8632
 ♦ 543
 ♣ 76

♠ J8732 ♠ 1094
 ♥ 107 ♥ -
 ♦ J6 ♦ AK82
 ♣ 10843 ♣ KQJ952

♠ A6
 ♥ AKJ954
 ♦ Q1097
 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
Jenny		Jeannette	
	Pass	2♣*	D'ble
5♣ (!)	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 10-14, with clubs

Jenny's 5♣ bid certainly hung North-South out to dry. They did extremely well to stop in 5♥. When a diamond was led off dummy, Jeannette coolly ducked, and declarer, not being second sighted, put in the 10 for down one.

Good Luck

Dealer: S ♠ Q2
 Vul: nil ♥ -
 ♦ AK9653
 ♣ AKJ73

♠ J874 ♠ 965
 ♥ J9852 ♥ Q3
 ♦ 1074 ♦ QJ8
 ♣ Q ♣ 109642

♠ AK103
 ♥ AK10764
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 85

West	North	East	South
	Jeannette		Jenny
			1♣ ¹
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass	3♥ ⁵
Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 15+
- 2 Positive with diamonds
- 3 Control ask
- 4 6 controls
- 5 Heart ask
- 6 No heart support

The strong club auction got nowhere. J&J tell me that North should have bid 6♣ in response to 3♥, which South would convert to 6NT. That works well on this layout, but strikes me as involving some hindsight.

6♥ was a very fine contract in the spade, diamond and club department, but unfortunately there were three losers in trumps – down two.

Why was this deal an example of good luck? At the other table, 6NT was in fact reached, but somehow went three down (how could that happen?), so Jenny and Jeannette actually picked up 2 imps.

When you bid to a no-play slam with another slam cold, and pick up 2 imps in the process, then, not only is that good luck, but it's a serious indication that you are destined to win.



ANZAC Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Gallus – M. Dilks
- 2 A. Hegedus – A. Mill
- 3 G. Mealyea – P. Kersey

Swiss Teams

- 1 P. Schroor, D. Sheather, P. Edwards, P. van Lierop
- 2 S. Gerdan, M. Balint, A. Mill, G. Chettle
- 3 L. Gold, J. Stark, B. Howe, N. Ewart



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:
 "The first duty of a contract is to make. If it doesn't make, that's a major flaw."
 "South's bid implied: I have four spades, four hearts, six clubs and the rest are diamonds."

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Christopher Salter
Club Master	Marion Burns Leslie Goldschlager Joan Hegedus Myer Janover
Local Master	Sara Glasman
*Local Master	Anne Bednarz Margaret Inglis
**Local Master	Dinny Downie Mary Lipp
*State Master	Margaret Margitta
Bronze Life Master	Marian Obenchain
Gold Life Master	Peter Havlicek



Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Bridge Congress

Swiss Pairs

**Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong
 Sunday 28th May 2006, at 10:15 am sharp.**

\$45 per person Red Points Cash Prizes

<p>\$45 includes the table fee, a two course gourmet lunch prepared by our club's chefs, and coffee and tea all day.</p> <p>Drinks available at bar prices.</p> <p>Conditions: System Cards are mandatory. Highly Unusual Systems may not be used.</p> <p>Limit: 50 pairs</p>	<p>Entries accepted only if in writing, accompanied by full payment, and arriving before 12 noon, 23rd May 2006</p> <p>Director: Andrew Mill.</p> <p>Convenor: Leeron Branicki Phone: (03) 9592 5894 Mail to: leeron@bigpond.net.au</p> <p>KLTC Dress Standard: smart-casual, e.g. shirts with collars please.</p>
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