

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

## 2006 ANC

Later this month, the city of churches hosts the Australian National Championships.

Our best wishes go to all Victorians who participate – may all your finesses win - and in particular to our various representative teams:



### Open:

Adam Sarten, Chris Hughes, Wally Scott, Jeff Fust, Andrew Mill, Rob van Riel

### Women:

Felicity Beale, Diana Smart, Helen Snashall, Sally Murray-White, Jill Magee, Kitty Muntz (Martin Willcox npc)

### Seniors:

Henry de Jong, George Gaspar, Michael Chrapot, Miriam Tencer, Blaine Howe, Stan Klofa (Boris Tencer npc)

### Juniors:

Nathan Howard, Ben Kingham, Martin Wardle, Jeremy Goldberg, Jeremy Rosen, Ivan Hu (Andrew Mill npc)

## VBA NEWS Cathie Lachman

I am really thrilled to report that the VBA has purchased a new board dealing machine and it is due for delivery in late-August. This is long overdue and whilst our current machine has served us well and will continue to be used, the new machine will make us less vulnerable (recently we had to hand duplicate boards when the machine broke down!) and of course bring enormous smiles to the board dealers' faces grappling with the current machine's quirkiness. Along with the new machine will be new playing cards - another item overdue. I can hear many people hooraying! So not long now and we will have fancy new cards and swiftly dealt boards.

In mid June we took delivery of left-handed bidding boxes. Bidding boxes are now being used in all state events and consequently our left-handed players will find it easier. Of course our right-handed players will be happy too as the boxes will be evenly spread around the table.

Our 2006 ANC teams representing Victoria in Adelaide in July will be sporting hand knitted scarves! They are royal blue and all knitted or being knitted with love by various members, non members and friends. Wearing the scarves will make the Victorian representation unique, identifiable and fashionable. The scarves are approximately 2 metres long and can be worn various ways from the Dr Who look to the trendy double folded and threading through look. Contributors to this effort who deserve an extremely big thank you are:

Rosemary Begg, Project Manager. Members, Raie Harband, Tess Gillies, Pam Craig, Jeannette Collins, Ellen Allery, Allison Bennett, Madeleine Zafir, Lilli Allgood, Sue Kelso, Nicole McManamny, Helen Eisenberger, Eva Samuel, Penny Corrigan, Helen Snashall. Non members, Anne Dunk, Christine Kelly, Pauline Brown, Penny Antonov, Jan Clyne.

**NEW(!) MID WINTER  
DUPLICATE SESSIONS  
STARTING  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006  
at 7.30 p.m.**

The VBA is starting a Wednesday evening duplicate session commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Come along and enjoy our lovely playing rooms and café

Pre-dealt boards with Hand Records

Free game vouchers for winners



All players \$7.00



I hope to have a photograph for next month's bulletin.

We still need a couple more volunteers, so if you are able to knit up 5 skeins of wool before 18<sup>th</sup> July, please contact me on 9530-9006.



**THE HISTORY PROJECT:  
ROTHFIELD TEAMS  
Ian McCance**

The Honour Roll of Presidents of the VBA (located in the library) records that Nathan Rothfield was President in 1965-6 and 1967-70 and Jessel Rothfield in 1966-7, 1974-5 and 1980-81. To these substantial contributions must be added another, unique, contribution to the well-being of the VBA.

From its inception as the VBU, Victoria's home club operated in rented premises, initially in Howey Court (Arcade in Collins St), and in various locations subsequently. The Rothfields recognised the need for a permanent headquarters for Victorian bridge, and their unremitting efforts in fund-raising, planning and organising resulted in the erection of the dedicated building in Macquarie St. Their builder was Denis Croft<sup>1</sup>, VBA President 1970-74 and 75-6.

In the 1960s Jessel Rothfield became the first elected President of the ABF: his vision of a role for Australia in the Pacific-Asian bridge scene led to the participation of Australian teams in the Far East Bridge Championships, now known as the Pacific-Asian Bridge Championships. Both Jessel and Nathan played in the first Australian team to the Far East in 1967, and again in 1968 when Australia won. Jessel played again in 1969 and 1970: Australia's win in 1970 was its last! Nathan Rothfield died in the early '90s. Jessel continues to play a fine game; he and his wife Carole played in Australia's Bermuda Bowl teams in 1997 and 1999.



<sup>1</sup> The Croft Teams, an affiliated clubs event, is scheduled for July 8. More information on D.C., please!

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Australia-Wide**

**Novice Pairs**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2006**

The annual Australia-Wide Novice Pairs Competition is a national bridge event for novices (up to the rank of Local Master one star) in clubs all around Australia, played in the week of 25-31 July.

The VBA session will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July  
Commencing at 7.30 p.m..

There are prizes worth more than \$2000, an instructive souvenir booklet of the hands, and red masterpoints. But more importantly, you get a great sense of participation by playing in an event alongside thousands of other competitors.

Members \$10.00 - Non Members \$12.00

Enter - Notice Board at VBA ~ e-m clachman@vba.asn.au



**AN EPONYMOUS VICTORY  
Ian McCance**

I played with John Newman more than 10 years ago, when his team came second in a Spring National Teams. We share an enthusiasm for a Roman-style 2♣ opening for all 3-suited hands, so I suggested that we should turn it loose on the Seniors' Swiss Pairs at the VCC.

There were 7 rounds of 16 boards. Our first opponents were Iggi Tyrmand and June Grigg, who told us that she is an octogenarian and that Iggi had just turned 95.

Dealer: E	♠ 863	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ6	
	♦ J	
	♣ AK863	
♠ AKJ7		♠ Q1052
♥ K1052		♥ 874
♦ AK984		♦ 63
♣ -		♣ QJ95
	♠ 94	
	♥ 93	
	♦ Q10752	
	♣ 10742	

This was the first and last appearance of the Nemesis Club. I opened 2♣ from West, JN 2♠, weak, to play or convert. I raised and he bid 4♠, hoping his clubs would be of some use. They weren't.

The defence started with three rounds of hearts and the diamond split doomed 4♠. JN was left with trumps in each hand and forced to lead from his clubs. He led ♣Q, IT won ♣A and returned a low one, ♣9, ♣10: down 2. JN

congratulated IT on his guile, prompting a surprised "What could I do?" from IT, in just the way my friend and partner, the late Freddie Altman would have said it.

Dealer: N     ♠ 7  
 Vul: Both    ♥ AKQJ8765  
                  ♦ 952  
                  ♣ 9

♠ AK1064	♠ Q8532
♥ 2	♥ 10943
♦ KQJ73	♦ A64
♣ AQ	♣ K

♠ J9  
 ♥ -  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ J108765432

North bid what he was looking at, 4♥. This went to West, where JN doubled. My 4♠ was automatic, and so I suppose was JN's next move – he wheeled out the Blackwood and the cold slam netted 11 IMPs. He does like to bid.

In round 5 it was my turn:

Dealer: N     ♠ J73  
 Vul: E/W     ♥ J109642  
                  ♦ J92  
                  ♣ 4

♠ Q54	♠ A86
♥ KQ3	♥ 5
♦ AKQ	♦ 1064
♣ AK103	♣ QJ7652

♠ K1092  
 ♥ A87  
 ♦ 8753  
 ♣ 98

JN opened 2♦ in fourth, the *Multi* but not really ambiguous. My 2♥ response brought forth 2NT, 23-4 HCP. I couldn't think of anything sensible to do, so tested JN with 4♣. I'm sure we agreed to play Gerber over NTs, but this produced a tank, from which he emerged with 4♠, Gerbering correctly: my 6♣ picked up 9 IMPs. I've no idea why; it seemed to me that provided the point range was correct, the good 6-card suit with a side ace should be sufficient. Notice that I cleverly right-sided the contract. A (very unlikely) spade lead beats 6♣ from West. Notice also that if South ducks when East leads ♥5, declarer can later lead low to ♠Q.

We clobbered ourselves by letting a vul game through on round 6, a 10-20 loss exposing us to the vagaries of fortune with a lead reduced to 6 VPs. I wrote up this deal from round 7 for the *Age*.

Dealer: S     ♠ AK2  
 Vul: Both    ♥ AK6  
                  ♦ J96  
                  ♣ AT85

♠ -	♠ J9875
♥ QJ9873	♥ T2
♦ AK54	♦ Q8732
♣ J64	♣ 7

♠ QT643  
 ♥ 54  
 ♦ T  
 ♣ KQ932

West	North	East	South
			2♠*
3♥	4NT	Pass	5♣^//

\* 2 suits, 5+/5+, same colour, 6-9 HCP  
 ^ no aces

JN's 2♠ was ambiguous, red suits or black, resolved by West's overcall. The North hand was a problem. It seemed most likely that partner held one heart and two diamonds, from the overcall; perhaps even 3 diamonds (he could, of course, have been longer than 5/5). I gave serious consideration to an immediate 6♣, based on the assumption that East would lead his partner's suit. I still think this is a very practical bid, but I am glad I wimped out because West would have Lightner-doubled, and the spade lead kills 6♣.

Finally I applied the Blackwood with no expectation that partner would have an ace, but with confidence in the resulting contract. With that foul 5-0 split in spades 5♣ picked up 9 IMPs and ensured our win.

I incorrectly suggested in the *Age* that if the defence starts 2 rounds of diamonds 4♠ must fail. However Michael Dilks made 4♠ against that defence on the following lines: trump the diamond, then ♠A, then start clubs forcing East, trump a diamond again, continue clubs again. This time the North hand can look after the diamonds. You lose only 2 trumps and a diamond. The field was looking after us, 7 declarers failed in 4♠.

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: N ♠ 85  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AJ854  
 ♦ Q1086  
 ♣ 32

♠ J  
 ♥ 103  
 ♦ AKJ752  
 ♣ KQ96

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	D'ble	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead ♦A, which holds, partner playing ♦3 (natural count). What is your next card?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: E ♠ A10987  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK7  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ K864

♠ Q  
 ♥ 643  
 ♦ KJ72  
 ♣ AQ1095

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

\* fit-showing

You lead ♠Q. Partner signals even, and declarer wins ♠K. Next come ♥A, ♥7 to South's ♥Q, then ♠6. How do you defend?

Solutions on page 8.

**NEW FACES**

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Jeff Batten	Jack Burns
Lynne Graham	Kay Levy
Linda Nayna	Doris Page
Susan Selby	Nick Spencer
Laszlo Szigeti	

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

IMPs ♠ J652  
 Dealer: S ♥ A  
 Vul: All ♦ K97  
 ♣ AK932

♠ AQ10  
 ♥ Q32  
 ♦ AQJ5  
 ♣ J84

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All pass	

\* transfer to clubs

♥J is led against 6♣. I hope you are not tired out from all the bidding, because now you have to play it. You win ♥A and cash a top club – all follow low.

Take it from there. Solution on page 8.

**BIDDING BOX TECHNIQUE**

Now that Bidding Boxes are in increasing use at the VBA, here are a few recommended techniques for their operation:

- Inverted Minors, the 2♣ or 3♣ card should be played face-down on the table.
- Take-out double: you should remove the double card from the box and take it outside.
- Multi 2♦: Borrow an opponent's 2♦ card and place both 2♦ cards on the table.
- DONT over 1NT: Put the bid on the table, then after a moment, pick it up and put it back in the box.
- If using key-card Blackwood, replace the 4NT card with a secure chip-encoded version.

Note: if playing Precision, you MUST place the bidding cards very neatly on the table.

## RECENT RESULTS

### Thwaites Mixed Pairs

#### Championship

- 1 M. Woods – D. Hohor
- 2 C. Chua – S. Hinge
- 3 D. Smart – I. McCance

#### Plate

- 1 F. Halmos – A. Halmos
- 2 M. Spurrier – S. Klofa
- 3 P. Schroor – D. Sheather

#### Consolation

- 1 P. Hemmingway – S. Arber
- 2 L. Szabo – C. Hagan
- 3 S. Pick – G. Pick

### Board A Match Teams

- 1 W. Jacobs, L. Gold, C. Chua, S. Hinge,  
I. McCance, B. Thompson
- 2 G. Gaspar, H. de Jong, S. Arber,  
E. Caplan
- 3 C. Lachman, H. Snashall, M. Chan,  
M. Willcox

### Fred Hapgood Pairs

- 1 J. Kent – J. Guttmann
- 2 G. Collins – J. Clyne
- 3 B. Tencer – V. Goldberg

### VBA Open Pairs

#### Championship

- 1 S. Gerdan – R. Szabo-Bencze
- 2 R. Gallus – M. Dilks
- 3 N. Ewart – B. Howe

#### Plate

- 1 G. Gaspar – H. de Jong
- 2 K. Hoff – A. Meydan
- 3 L. Szabo – D. Jacobs

#### Consolation

- 1 A. Paul – B. Jaffrey
- 2 R. Begg – J. Hare
- 3 L. Hickman, P. Corrigan

### Victor Champion Cup

#### Seniors Swiss Pairs (McCance Trophy)

- 1 I. McCance – J. Newman
- 2 V. Goldberg – B. Tencer
- 3 R. Gallus – M. Dilks

#### Womens Swiss Pairs

- 1 E. Havas – B. Travis
- 2 C. Chua – J. Fleiszig
- 3 F. Beale – D. Smart

#### Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Ogilvy – R. Muir
- 2 C. Macquarrie – D. Phelan
- 3 E. Byrnes – D. Hollands

#### Victor Champion Cup Teams

- 1 J. Newman, P. Buchen, D. Lusk,  
A. Markovics, C. Hughes
- 2 N. Ewart, B. Howe, M. Dilks, R. Gallus
- 3 M. Brifman, R. Jedrychowski, B. Travis,  
T. Ong

## RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Alan Johnston
Club Master	Ola Cohen
Local Master	Jasmine Hurley
Regional Master	Luba Puterman
*Regional Master	Nafty Van Der Hoek
National Master	Andy Hegedus
Life Master	Ian Webb



**Spring Series 2006**  
**BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS**  
at the VBA

**FREE if you are under 30 years of age**

When?	Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> August
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena
Cost?	\$120 per person, includes: - 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons - Certificate on completion - 6 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$42)
Registration?	Only by deposit of \$50 - MasterCard and Visa accepted
Teacher:	Jeff Fust
Phone:	9530-9006
	E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au



**FOR STARTERS**  
**Bill Jacobs**

*More on Transfers after 1NT*

Last month, I outlined a simple transfer mechanism following a 1NT opening. The basics are:

- 2♣ Stayman
- 2♦ Transfer to hearts (shows hearts)
- 2♥ Transfer to spades (shows spades)
- 2♠ Transfer to clubs (shows clubs)
- 2NT Transfer to diamonds (shows diamonds)

Let's round out the system.

Responses at the 3 level

A jump response to 1NT shows a strong single suited hand, and is always a try for slam. It says: we will play this contract in either this suit or NT – there are no exceptions! It should generally be based on a 6+ card suit, but could be only 5 if it is very solid, for example, AKJ10x.

In response to the jump, the one notrumper has three choices:

- bid 3NT (no support)
- raise the suit (support, but no side ace)
- cue bid in a new suit (support, plus the ace in the bid suit)

Dealing with both majors as responder

Responding hands with 5-4 (or similar) in the majors require tender loving care. How you care for them depends on the overall strength of your hand, so let's consider them separately.

With *game-forcing strength*, you should use transfers. Transfer to the longer major, and then bid the shorter one, which if you recall last week's episode, is natural and forcing.

So with 5 spades and 4 hearts, bid 2♥, transferring to 2♠, then follow up with 3♥. (When you first play transfers, this might have an alternative meaning ... that you forgot you were playing transfers and have a one-suiter in hearts – but those "forgets" will soon disappear.)

With 5 hearts and 4 spades, bid 2♦, transferring to 2♥, and then follow up with 2♠.

Opener will then be able to help you in the search for the place to play.

With a *weak hand (no interest in game)*, you should use Stayman, 2♣. If partner responds in a major, you can pass happily; if he bids 2♦ (no major), you bid your longer suit to play. This way, you can check for a 4-4 fit and if none is found, play in your 5-card suit at the two level.

With *invitational strength*, you have options. I recommend using Stayman, and if partner responds 2♦, then jump into your 5 card major at the three level. So for example the auction:

1NT	-	2♣
2♦	-	3♠

shows 5 or 6 spades, 4 hearts and invitational values. Admittedly, this rules out 2NT as a final contract, but that is a small downside.

Looking after the minors

You take care of your children don't you? You also need to take care of those other minors: diamonds and clubs.

We have seen now how to deal with minors in game-forcing situations. Recapping:

- transfer to a minor, then bid a new suit, shows a primary minor and a secondary side suit
- jump directly to 3 of the minor is a one-suited slam try
- transferring to a major, then bidding a minor, shows the minor as a secondary suit

And of course, you can always sign-off in 3 of a minor by transferring to it and taking the auction no further.

With an invitational hand and a long minor, I recommend going through Stayman. So bidding 2♣ and following it up with 3 of a minor shows an invitational hand with a long minor. Opener can then make his own arrangements. This also carries the advantage of finding a 4-4 major suit fit in

situations where you have something like 5-4 with a 4 card major and 5 card minor.

OK, enough theory – it's time to test yourself. Plan your auction when partner opens 1NT, 15-17.

1. ♠ Q86432 ♥ KJ54 ♦ J5 ♣ 7
2. ♠ K52 ♥ 4 ♦ AQJ765 ♣ K72
3. ♠ KJ10 ♥ Q104 ♦ AK3 ♣ A873
4. ♠ 3 ♥ Q1082 ♦ 1093 ♣ AQ982
5. ♠ 104 ♥ 6 ♦ J8762 ♣ K9843
6. ♠ AK53 ♥ Q987 ♦ 4 ♣ KJ43

- 
1. ♠ Q86432 ♥ KJ54 ♦ J5 ♣ 7

An invitational hand – start with Stayman. Over a surprising 2♠ rebid, jump to 4♠. Over 2♥, 3♥ feels about right. And over 2♦ (no major), jump to 3♠ to give partner the choice between 3♠, 3NT and 4♠.

2. ♠ K52 ♥ 4 ♦ AQJ765 ♣ K72

This is your classic jump shift: 3♦ to start the process of deciding between game or slam in diamonds or notrumps.

If partner cue-bids 3 of a major, I would suggest 3NT next, leaving a further move to him. You have already shown that you are interested in slam.

3. ♠ KJ10 ♥ Q104 ♦ AK3 ♣ A873

With a flat 17 points, you really want to be in 6NT if partner has a maximum or game in notrumps otherwise. I recommend that a direct jump to 4NT here describes this hand. Auctions like 1NT-4NT and 2NT-4NT should be “quantitative”, asking partner to simply bid 6NT if maximum.

If you instead want to find out about aces, the convention to use is Gerber, where a 4♣ response (to either 1NT or 2NT openings) asks partner to show the number of aces.

4. ♠ 3 ♥ Q1082 ♦ 1093 ♣ AQ982

Invitational again, this time to game. Start with Stayman to check out a 4-4 heart fit, then if it doesn't appear, you have a choice between an invitational 2NT or an invitational 3♣, according to taste.

5. ♠ 104 ♥ 6 ♦ J8762 ♣ K9843

This one's fun. If you worked out what to do, you should give yourself a pat on the back. Transfer to *diamonds*, via a 2NT bid, and have the agreement with your partner that a 3♦ acceptance of the transfer shows diamond support, whilst a 3♣ bid denies it. Then if partner bids 3♣ you can surprise him by letting him play it there (if he doesn't have diamond support, he should have club support).

6. ♠ AK53 ♥ Q987 ♦ 4 ♣ KJ43

Start with Stayman. If partner denies a major, you have an obvious 3NT. If partner bids a major, and you have discussed the general principle, you could try 4♦ as a splinter bid – inviting slam whilst simultaneously showing your shortage.

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#### *In conclusion ...*

The basic methods I have described in these two articles have stood the test of time ... they have been common expert methods for over 30 years.

I do recommend that you give them a try. Some of the ideas presented here are a bit more for “continuers” than for “starters”, so don't let that turn you off. You can stick the very basics and still get plenty of value from transfers.

Because a 1NT opening is so well defined, there are any number of system mechanisms that can be played over them. These transfer methods will successfully handle the vast majority of hands that you are likely to be dealt. One day you might want to develop your own methods to also handle the tiny minority, but for starters, transfers are the way to go.

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: N	♠ 85	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ854	
	♦ Q1086	
	♣ 32	
♠ J		♠ 732
♥ 103		♥ KQ62
♦ AKJ752		♦ 3
♣ KQ96		♣ J8754
	♠ AKQ10954	
	♥ 97	
	♦ 94	
	♣ A10	

Partner is going to have a lot of stuff to beat this contract. One thing he does have is a diamond singleton – what do you make of that?

What you should *not* do is cash ♦K now, which although it wins, sets up a trick in dummy. I suggest a *low* diamond continuation allowing partner to ruff, and not setting up any tricks in diamonds for declarer. Unless this burns an unlikely trump trick of partner's, it is the safest move – on this layout, a heart shift also works, as long as partner, on winning, switches to a club.

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: E	♠ A10987	
Vul: N/S	♥ AK7	
	♦ 8	
	♣ K864	
♠ Q		♠ J542
♥ 643		♥ 98
♦ KJ72		♦ A10943
♣ AQ1095		♣ 72
	♠ K63	
	♥ QJ1052	
	♦ Q65	
	♣ J3	

There are two ways to beat 4♥, both requiring partner to hold ♦A (remember, South passed initially). The options:

1) You led that ♠Q to get a ruff, and now you mustn't (Bridge is a contrary game). Declarer is trying to get the spades going, but if you duck, he can't. The best he can do is pop ♠A and concede a spade. Partner can now switch to diamonds and the second

round forces dummy's high trump out; continuing a fourth spade is also effective.

2) OK, go ahead and make your ♥6. Now you must switch to a diamond, and partner continue diamonds, forcing ♥K from dummy before it becomes an entry to set up spades.

### THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ J652	
Dealer: W	♥ A	
Vul: All	♦ K97	
	♣ AK932	
♠ K73		♠ 984
♥ J10954		♥ K876
♦ 1082		♦ 643
♣ Q6		♣ 1075
	♠ AQ10	
	♥ Q32	
	♦ AQJ5	
	♣ J84	

There are two ways to play the clubs from here. You can bang out another high one, and hope that the queen-doubleton drops, or you can play a low one next, which protects against Q10xx in either East or West, and therefore guarantees exactly one loser in the suit.

To decide whether to play for 0 or 1 losers in clubs, take the spade finesse first. If it wins, return to your hand in diamonds and safety play the clubs for one loser and your contract; if it loses, play a second top club and pray for queen-doubleton.

If West smoothly ducks the spade king in the above set up, then congratulate him ... and start looking for an easier game.

♠   ♥   ♦   ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

"South had five hearts and five clubs, but they were not playing five-card majors so he opened one club."

"I don't understand how declarer made only 5♠. I understand why he wanted to make only 5♠: It wouldn't be so obvious then that he had missed a slam"