

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2007

Editor: Bill Jacobs

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Recently at both the ANOT in Adelaide and the VCC in Melbourne there was an alcohol-free policy in the playing area. It would be nice to see the same thing introduced at the VBA. Is there another sport in the world which finds drinking-while-playing acceptable?

Regards, Cathy Chua

Darts?

Seriously, Cathy's view about alcohol has merit ... perhaps alcohol should be prohibited from the table, *during play*. However, before and after the session, it seems civilized that VBA members can utilize the club's BYO license.

IMPORTANT! PATRONS PLEASE NOTE

In the near future, the City of Monash will be erecting new parking limits on the eastern side of Poath Road (opposite the building).

These restrictions will affect night time players.

Between 6.00 p.m. and midnight there will be a parking limit of 2 hours.

Please watch out for the new signage and avoid a parking fine.

Patrons are reminded **not to park in Stewart or Lydson Streets.**

There is ample parking at the Hughesdale train station car park (both sides of the track), on the western side of Poath Road and the VBA car park.

FREMANTLE ANC WRAPUP

Some triumphs and disappointments. In the first week, Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge spreadeagled the field to win the Open Butler event.



Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge

Congratulations to Paula Schroor and Laurie Kelso for taking out the ANC Mixed Pairs.

In the Teams event, our Youth team was creditable, finishing a clear third – next year guys! The Open and Seniors teams would have been slightly disappointed to run fourth.

The Womens team of Marion Spurrier, Julie Day, Yvonne Millman, Margaret Tildesley, Mary Elson and Diana Jacobs, with Paula Schroor as non-playing captain, performed splendidly by qualifying second, and giving the strong Western Australian unit a real fright in the final.



Victorian Womens team: Margaret Tildesley, Julie Day, Paula Schroor (npc), Diana Jacobs, Yvonne Millman, Marion Spurrier (absent: Mary Elson)

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You hold, nil vulnerable at imps:

♠ A632 ♥ J9743 ♦ J5 ♣ Q3

RHO deals and opens 1♣, playing standard.
Do you take a bid?

I wouldn't. There's a saying: "bidding on rubbish leads to garbage results". This hand seems to qualify. Moreover, your long suit is weak, and bidding it is hardly going to help partner with the lead. And the hand is not strong enough for a takeout double.

You pass, and the auction proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

What do you lead to 4♠?

When you hold long trumps, it often suggests a "forcing" defence. The idea is to lead your side's long suit, hoping to force declarer to ruff. Eventually your long trumps might result in declarer losing control of the hand.

Leading one of those short minors is particularly distasteful. It could blow tricks in the suit, and doesn't seem to achieve anything.

A trump lead is possible – but once again, what purpose does it serve?

Only the heart lead comes with a plan: wresting trump control from declarer. You lead the heart four, and see:

♠ A632 ♥ J9743 ♦ J5 ♣ Q3	♠ Q985 ♥ Q6 ♦ A10862 ♣ A5
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Your heart lead goes to the queen, king and ace (that's nice!). Declarer now plays the spade king.

How is your plan going? How do you defend? (If you let the spade king hold, partner will follow low, and declarer will play another spade.)

Your plan is going beautifully. The best way to manage trump holdings like this is to hold up your ace until you have just one small trump left. You should let the spade king hold, and a second round as well, coming down to ♠Ax.

Now declarer is in a pickle – if he plays a third round, you will win and play your last spade, running declarer out of trumps, with your hearts threatening to run. But if he abandons trumps, your little trump poses a ruffing threat.

Let's take a look at the full deal:

♠ A632 ♥ J9743 ♦ J5 ♣ Q3	♠ Q985 ♥ Q6 ♦ A10862 ♣ A5 ♠ KJ107 ♥ A5 ♦ K94 ♣ K1042
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And here is the position when you duck the second round of trumps:

♠ A6 ♥ J973 ♦ J5 ♣ Q3	♠ Q9 ♥ 6 ♦ A10862 ♣ A5 ♠ 107 ♥ 5 ♦ K94 ♣ K1042
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Declarer must abandon trumps, for fear of a fourth round. When he gives up a diamond, your side plays two more rounds of hearts. Declarer can ruff the third heart, but has lost control of the trumps. He has to play more diamonds, which you ruff – and that ruff is the setting trick.

Points to remember.

- Don't overcall on bad suits in a moderate hand.
- When on lead and holding length in trumps, look for a forcing defence – leading your side's long suit to attack declarer's trumps
- Holding Axx or Axxx in trumps, try holding up your ace until you have just one small one left.



Suit combination of the month

Dummy
♣ 5432


Declarer
♣ AQ98

What's the best play at IMPs for one loser:

- at notrumps
- with clubs as trumps

You have unlimited entries (and no concerns about a ruff at a club contract).

Be warned – this is one of the more difficult and intriguing problems in this series.

 <p>Winter/Spring Series 2007 BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS at the VBA</p>	
When?	Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 9 th August
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee
Cost?	\$125 per person (students, under 30s \$80) : - 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

The VBA regrets the passing of:

George Rogers, a member since 1971 passed away on 13 July and our thoughts are with Mila, Marie Shenker and all of the family.

Norman Hain passed away on 8 July after a long illness and our thoughts are with Anita and family.

ALERT EXAMINATION

1. Partner opens 1♦ Precision, could be as few as 1 card in diamonds. Do you alert?
2. You play Standard. Partner opens 1♣ - could be a three-card suit. Do you alert? Do you alert if 1♣ could be opened on a doubleton (4=4=3=2 shape)?
3. You open 2♦, multi, LHO bids 3♣. Partner bids 3♥ - pass or correct. Do you alert? What if partner had bid 4♥ (also pass or correct)?
4. Partner opens 1♠, you respond 3♦, natural and strong. Partner alerts and when asked, explains it as "fit-showing". What do you do?
5. You hold: ♠ 7432 ♥ AKQ105 ♦ 65 ♣ A3. RHO deals and opens 2♥. You pass, and LHO then says: "sorry I should have alerted that". What do you do?
6. Partner opens 1NT. You bid 2♣, Stayman. Partner alerts – is that correct? Partner now responds 2♠, showing 4 spades, and denying 4 hearts. Do you alert?
7. You open 1NT (12-14). LHO doubles, and partner bids 2♣. That's natural, but you know from experience he might do it with short clubs and support for the other suits, intending to redouble if 2♣ gets doubled. Do you alert?
8. In the auction above, RHO asks you about 2♣. Do you say:
 - Natural
 - Ostensibly natural, but might be the start of a rescue operation

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ 52
 Vul: nil ♥ KQ8
 ♦ J84
 ♣ AKQ93

♠ A6
 ♥ J9
 ♦ AKQ10763
 ♣ 107

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

You start with ♦A on which partner plays ♦2. Dummy is not an encouraging sight: still, you are playing natural count and so you know a second diamond will cash.

Can you see a way to four tricks?

Problem 2:

This problem is in two parts. Cover the North hand so that you can only see your own hand, West, and the auction. What will you lead?

Dealer: N ♠ QJ9843
 Vul: N/S ♥ J3
 ♦ 864
 ♣ Q8

♠ K2
 ♥ 9642
 ♦ K2
 ♣ A10642

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ *
Pass	2♠ ^	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠ ^	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Precision: strong club

^ North shows ♠ QJxxx, 232 outside

If you started a trump, good work. Often it seems, an auction like this leads to declarer finding a fortunate ruff in dummy. You have stopped that.

South wins the trump in hand, cashes ♠A and enters dummy with ♥J to lead ♠Q, on which he discards ♦3. Plan your defence.

Solutions on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: E ♠ K62
 Vul: N/S ♥ K93
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ 5432

♠ AQJ
 ♥ AQJ5
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AQ98

West	North	East	South
Pass	6NT	Pass	2NT
		All pass	

West leads the spade ten.

Plan the play. Solution on page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Club Master	Jeff Batten Patricia Grieves Joseph Lyttleton John Spender
Local Master	Tim Kilham
**Local Master	Kamara Nainanayake
Regional Master	Susan Harraway
State Master	Ken Trolland
*State Master	Dan Phelan
Silver Life Master	Marian Obenchain
Gold Life Master	Kevin Chan Dan Hohor
Grand Master	Traian Chira
Silver Grand Master	Julette Alexander

THE SEVEN DEADLY PARTNERSHIP SINS Blaine Howe

The Seven Deadly Sins were put together by the Dallas Aces (in 1967 according to my copy) as a summary of the categories of mistakes we make as players – they used them when reviewing what they did during training and matches. The team (Bob Hamman, Mike Lawrence and a few other OK players...) went on to win multiple world championships so there is probably something to it.

I have noticed that most mistakes my partner and I make as players can be chucked into one of these baskets. If the same sin keeps repeating itself, we work on it.

Seven Deadly Sins

The original list that I have is:

1. Bidding without values
2. System violations
3. Unilateral actions
4. No-Win declarer plays
5. No-Win defensive plays
6. Impulsive plays
7. Mechanicals

We try to identify such things ourselves when reviewing sessions or events. We then discuss specific hands or deal with the topic as a whole.

Sometimes we may just identify a problem and that is enough by itself.

For instance, we may have had an evening where sloppy defence caused unnecessary losses. After the session, however, one of us says that the cause was being tired. Neither of us will now pursue any particular boards where the defence was poor.

These sins are basically just you as a player and you can work on them just like you work on your technique. The mistakes you make as partners, however, are just as important to your results.

I have attempted here to generate an effective list of the sins that occur *on a partnership level*. Surprisingly, the top three had direct parallels.

Broadly speaking, partnership sins are about how you conduct your relationship and how you conduct your defence where winning bridge is based on a fully co-operative effort.

Seven Deadly Partnership Sins

My sin list for partnerships is as follows:

1. Talking without values
2. Agreement violations
3. Unilateral defence
4. Domestic deafness
5. Body language
6. Creating bad vibes
7. Laziness

It will be interesting to see if I have got it right or not. Maybe my partner will tell me if I have missed something.

Also, maybe some of you out there can explore the themes. If you want to shield the innocent (such as your good self), then pass material on to me – I promise to protect my sources...

... to be continued



How many suits are there again?

The following question was posed tonight on the TV Quiz, 1 Versus 100:

With there being 13 chances of picking a Heart from a shuffled deck of cards, the odds of picking a Heart are:

- A. 1 in 4
- B. 1 in 5
- C. 1 in 6

Of the 87 remaining of the Mob, 24 got it wrong.

Clearly there are a lot of people out there who have never played cards...

(Thanks to Blaine Howe for this snippet)

RECENT RESULTS

Fred Hapgood Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Klofa – R. Gallus
- 2 J. Hare – J. Quayle
- 3 K. Nainanayake – S. Hasthanayake

Ailsa Tandy Eclectic Pairs

- 1 E. Hardy – K. Brook
- 2 M. Chrapot – L. Meyer
- 3 W. Bennett – J. Grigg

Rothfield Teams

- 1 L. Gold, W. Jacobs, C. Chua, S. Hinge,
I. McCance, B. Thompson
- 2 C. Snashall, G. Kilvington, D. Hohor,
T. Chira, R. van Riel
- 3 J. Rothfield, J. Thompson, E. Caplan,
S. Browne

ETHICAL DILEMMAS - VII

Bill Jacobs

Alert!

Alerts are designed to make your opponents aware of unusual system understandings. You alert partner's bid if it's artificial in some way or carries a meaning that your opponents might not be expected to know.

Unfortunately, that sentence is heavily open to interpretation, so however detailed the regulations are, ultimately, it all comes down to common sense. A real problem!

The ABF (and hence VBA) alert regulations say: do not alert

- doubles or redoubles
- cue-bids of an opponent's suit
- bids above 3NT

You alert partner's bid by audibly saying "alert" and either circling partner's bid (written bidding), or displaying the alert card (bidding boxes).

Do not include an explanation with the alert. Just say "Alert". Wait for an opponent to ask before you actually explain the bid.

On to the exam results:

1. *Partner opens 1♦ Precision, could be as few as 1 card in diamonds. Do you alert?*

Yes, it's artificial. Openings that systemically can have fewer than 3 cards in the suit bid should be alerted.

2. *You play Standard. Partner opens 1♣ - could be a three-card suit. Do you alert? Do you alert if 1♣ could be opened on a doubleton (4=4=3=2 shape)?*

See above. No need to alert if it could be a 3-card suit (eg "better minor"), but alert if it could be a doubleton.

3. *You open 2♦, multi, LHO bids 3♣. Partner bids 3♥ - pass or correct. Do you alert? What if partner had bid 4♥ (also pass or correct)?*

You should alert 3♥ - it is artificial, not showing a long heart suit. Don't alert 4♥ because it is above the level of 3NT.¹

4. *Partner opens 1♠, you respond 3♦, natural and strong. Partner alerts and when asked, explains it as "fit-showing". What do you do?*

Keep a straight face and continue bidding as if you have made a strong jump shift, and if required explaining the system as you understand it – see last month's article.

At the end of the auction, if your side declares, you should fully explain the misunderstanding. If your side is defending, then you can say nothing until the end of the deal.

5. *You hold: ♠ 7432 ♥ AKQ105 ♦ 65 ♣ A3. RHO deals and opens 2♥. You pass, and LHO then says: "sorry I should have alerted that". What do you do?*

You should call the director. This is the default advice when an infraction is

¹ Why this exception of bids above 3NT? Perhaps because these bids are often in uncontested auctions where the opponents have long finished bidding, and therefore the alert can only serve as a reminder to the bidders.

known to have occurred. Law 9B ensures that you never suffer damage from calling the director because of an infraction – in this case, the failure to make a timely alert. The director will probably allow you to retract your pass and you can now bid 3♥ if desired.

6. *Partner opens 1NT. You bid 2♣, Stayman. Partner alerts – is that correct? Partner now responds 2♠, showing 4 spades, and denying 4 hearts. Do you alert?*

It is correct that partner alerts 2♣ - it is an artificial bid.¹

Don't alert the 2♠ bid because of the inference about hearts. If you were to alert bids that carry negative inferences like that, then just about every bid in the world would be alerted, and the alert mechanism would cease to have any meaning.

7. *You open 1NT (12-14). LHO doubles, and partner bids 2♣. That's natural, but you know from experience he might do it with short clubs and support for the other suits, intending to redouble if 2♣ gets doubled. Do you alert?*

Don't alert 2♣. It's not an artificial bid, and not an unexpected meaning for the opponents, and presumably if RHO passes, you will pass also.

8. *In the auction above, RHO asks you about 2♣. Do you say:*
 a. *Natural*
 b. *Ostensibly natural, but might be the start of a rescue*

b. Give a full and proper statement of your partnership understanding.



¹ There is a distinction between the infraction of failing to alert Stayman and resulting damage and score adjustment. If you were playing against me and forgot to alert 2♣, and I called the director at the end of play and asked for an adjustment because I could have doubled 2♣ for the lead but didn't, the director would politely tell me to visit a chiropractor if I want an adjustment. But a novice might have a genuine case for redress.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Bill Jacobs

Dealer: E	♠ K62	
Vul: N/S	♥ K93	
	♦ AQ8	
	♣ 5432	
♠ 10984		♠ 753
♥ 1076		♥ 842
♦ KJ32		♦ 10765
♣ K10		♣ J76
	♠ AQJ	
	♥ AQJ5	
	♦ 94	
	♣ AQ98	

This is a favourite of mine. Many years ago at the NOT in Canberra, I had to play this 6NT. The diamond finesse was a "sine qua non", but what about the clubs?

I led a club to the 9, losing to the 10; then got back to dummy and played another club to the queen. Down one, for a 26 imp negative turnover, game having been bid at the other table.

At the scoreup, my teammates were on my case in a flash – "cash the ace!" they cried. "Then if LHO drops the ten or jack, finesse the nine next. You lose to J10 doubleton off-side, but pick up K10 and KJ doubleton off-side; obvious restricted choice; surprised you didn't realise it; blah, blah, blah."

Six months of calculations later, I realised they were both right and wrong. Their recommended line *was* better than mine, but it was not best.

The correct play at 6NT is to play a club to the nine, and if it loses to the ten/jack, follow it with a club to the *eight*. This picks up KJ10x(x) on-side (3 combinations) but loses to K10 and KJ doubleton off-side (2 combinations), compared to cashing the ace. Both lines pick up singleton ten and jack off-side, which makes them superior to my nine-then-queen finesses.

If only I could turn back the clock to that score-up and tell my teammates: "your line is wrong as well – it was correct to go down."

In 6♣, the cash-ace plan is best, because you are down for sure if RHO has all five trumps.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: W	♠ 52	
Vul: nil	♥ KQ8	
	♦ J84	
	♣ AKQ93	
♠ A6		♠ QJ9743
♥ J9		♥ 106
♦ AKQ10763		♦ 2
♣ 107		♣ 8654
	♠ K108	
	♥ A75432	
	♦ 95	
	♣ J2	

Poke out ♦10 at trick 2, forcing partner to ruff and, if the fates are kindly, pick up declarer's spades.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ QJ9843	
Vul: N/S	♥ J3	
	♦ 864	
	♣ Q8	
♠ K2		♠ 10765
♥ 9642		♥ 5
♦ K2		♦ QJ1097
♣ A10642		♣ J75
	♠ A	
	♥ AKQ1087	
	♦ A53	
	♣ K93	

Declarer has set up ♠J for a discard, but will need to draw trumps to enjoy it since you will trump a good spade. You need to force him to take his entry to dummy while you still have trumps. Partner can't have much, but must be played to hold ♣J. If you lead a low club now, you remove the entry before trumps are drawn.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

“If you want to bid naturally and still sound modern, just say your bid shows the suit below the suit above the one you bid.”

“Now he has forced North to lead away from his king of diamonds but unfortunately North didn't have it. It's called the phantom endplay.”

Online Tournaments Anyone?

We are going to be running regular Online Pairs Tournaments on Tuesday nights on BBO.

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month we will have preloaded sets from championships with match results available from the original games.

We will run them other nights as well at least through August so turn up occasionally if you want them to continue.

They will be friendly events where you can play if you are free and maybe get some practice with a new partner.

They will be limited to Victorian players so give your BBO Names to the director on the night or, better, email the webmaster or Cathie to get them preloaded.

Details and How To documents are available on the extended Virtual Bridge area of the VBA Website.

... Blaine Howe

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS AT THE VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Open Pairs

6 weeks commencing on Wednesday 22nd August 2007.

Seniors Teams

3 weeks commencing on Monday 3rd September 2007.
Players born before 1st January 1950 are eligible.

For players not eligible for the Seniors category, the VBA Grand Prix Pairs will be run in parallel on Monday nights.

It is not necessary to be a member of the VBA to play in State events.

A partnership service is available for these events – please email suggestions@vba.asn.au

Enter: via the website: www.vba.asn.au or phone 9530 9006