

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VICTORIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS

The selection of the Victorian Open Team for the ANC has historically been decided via a playoff match between the winners of a Butler Pairs event and the Pennant Open Teams.

This overall structure is a good one, and it has produced consistent outcomes at the ANC: in the 2000s, Victoria has never placed lower than 4th (out of 8) in the Open event, and has won one Gold and two Silver medals.

The mechanism has some problems though. In the last 10 playoffs, how often has the "Butler" team won? (Hint: not many.) The Butler event suffers for a couple of reasons: being played in the year prior to the ANC means a long lead time; and in most years, qualified Butler pairs have subsequently withdrawn due to one or both players qualifying for the Pennant.

The result is that the Butler team usually needs to draw down its field to get three pairs: in 2008 for example, the pairs finishing 3rd, 4th and 6th formed the Butler team. This sort of outcome doesn't make for a competitive playoff!

A solution has been proposed by the Match and Tournament Committee, and it is a good one: swap the order of the two events. Play the Pennant in the second half of the year, and the Butler in February/March of the ANC year. The Pennant qualifying team would be barred from playing the Butler event, and so it can reasonably be expected that the top three pairs in the Butler will go on to compete in the Playoff immediately following.

The hope is that this change in timetabling will reinvigorate the Butler event.

In order to effect the swap, there will be no Butler Pairs event in 2009. Instead, a one-off teams event will be held in October and November to qualify a team for the 2010 Playoff.

RED POINTS SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY

Red point events have come to daytime bridge at the VBA. Warm up for Surfers' Paradise with the Charity Butler Pairs:

- Wednesdays 4th, 11th and 18th February
- Start 11 am, break for lunch, finish 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm
- No entry fee - \$10 table fee only
- From the table fee, \$1 each week will be donated to the RSPCA
- The Bridge Players Café will be open for lunch – serving hot and cold food, cakes and drinks

The next Wednesday Daytime Red Point Competition will be a Swiss Pairs event running for 3 weeks starting 11th March. Watch out for details in next month's bulletin!

Summer Festival Honour Board

Youth Teams:

1st Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Nathan Howard, Alex Lockwood (SA)

Youth Butler Pairs:

1st Peter Hollands - Justin Howard

Men's Pairs:

1st Justin Howard – Michael Whibley (NZ)

National Seniors Teams:

1st Chris Hughes (with John Newman, Peter Buchen, Peter Chan, David Lusk, Henry Christie)

2nd George Gaspar (with Bob Richman, David Hoffman, Ron Klinger)

National Women's Teams:

2nd Jenny Thompson, Paula Schroor, Rena Kaplan (with Julia Hoffman, Sheila Bird, Karen Creet)

National Open Teams finalists:

Felicity Beale, Rob van Riel, Cathy Chua, Simon Hinge, Neil Ewart, Blaine Howe, Justin Howard, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You pick up as dealer:

- ♠ 9
- ♥ AQ54
- ♦ A72
- ♣ AK874

With no one vulnerable playing IMPs, you open 1♣, and the auction proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♣
1♠	Pass	3♠	??

What's your bid?

It's a mighty fine hand, and it would be a shame to meekly pass now. Give partner a weak hand but long in a red suit – your side could make a lot of tricks.

The best way to get into the auction is with a double. After you have opened, when an opponent bids a suit, your double of that suit is essentially takeout, showing length, or at least tolerance, for all the other suits.

This applies particularly when your opponents bid and raise a suit, as here. There is no value in trying to make a penalty double of a partscore in that situation.

You double 3♠, but the opponents are undaunted:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♣
1♠	Pass	3♠	D'ble
4♠	Pass	Pass	??

What now?

You are certainly allowed to double their spade *game* for penalties, showing a really big hand. Should you? You have four top tricks plus the heart queen, but of course, your opposition will have some shape.

I don't feel strongly about it, but there is this to think about: if you double and beat it a trick, you have gained an extra 50 points for

+100 instead of +50. But if they make 4♠ doubled, you have lost an extra 170 points for -590 instead of -420. So the odds on the double aren't too good. Of course, the double looks better if you can beat 4♠ by two tricks, but is that likely?

Whether you pass or double, there is no more bidding, and 4♠ is the contract. Your partner leads the club two, and you see:

Dealer: E	♠ Q762	
Vul: nil	♥ K109	
	♦ KQJ84	
	♣ 5	
♣2 led		♠ 9
		♥ AQ54
		♦ A72
		♣ AK874

You win ♣K, declarer following with ♣3. What now?

That's a very strong dummy, and the diamonds are most ominous. Declarer doesn't have much high card strength, so he surely has the spade ace-king for his 4♠ bid.

In desperate times like this (desperate particularly if you double 4♠!), it's time to issue a small prayer – praying for partner to have a particular card. In this case, the heart jack.

Your best (only?) chance to beat the contract is to try to develop two heart tricks before dummy's diamonds come good.

It looks strange to play on hearts with the ace-queen over dummy's king, but the only winning defence is to switch to hearts here, leading the ace and another one. This beats the contract, the full deal being:

	♠ Q762	
	♥ K109	
	♦ KQJ84	
	♣ 5	
♠ 84		♠ 9
♥ J73		♥ AQ54
♦ 10653		♦ A72
♣ J962		♣ AK874
	♠ AKJ1053	
	♥ 862	
	♦ 9	
	♣ Q103	

You safely get your second heart trick before declarer can do anything with the diamonds. You defend so nicely!

Points to remember:

- When the opponents bid and raise a suit, a double by your side below the game level should be for takeout, rather than penalties.
- Beware of doubling freely bid game contracts just because you have a lot of points. At imps scoring¹, there is little value in a double that nets 100 instead of 50, or 200 instead of 100. If you feel you have a good shot at *two* down, then consider the double.
- Desperate times call for desperate measures. If you need to play your partner for a specific card or two, then do it!

CANBERRA DEPT OF DEFENCE - I

IMPs ♠ K
 Dealer: E ♥ J64
 Vul: Both ♦ KQJ1074
 ♣ K87

♠ J75
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ 96
 ♣ Q10642

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

You lead the spade five – king, ace, two. Partner returns the spade six and declarer wins with the queen.

1) What spade do you play at trick 2?

Declarer is reaching for the diamond ace.

2) Plan the defence.

¹ This argument doesn't apply so well at matchpoints, where the difference between +50 and +100 could be quite a lot of matchpoints.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ 98654
 Vul: N/S ♥ 7
 ♦ K95
 ♣ AK72

♠ 107
 ♥ AK952
 ♦ 8632
 ♣ Q6

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 12-14 HCP

You lead ♥5, which goes to ♥7, ♥8 and ♥10. Declarer starts diamonds, ♦7 to ♦K and partner's ♦A. Partner returns ♥6, ♥J and you win. How will you defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ J
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ
 ♦ A752
 ♣ AQ765

♠ A5432
 ♥ K8
 ♦ 1096
 ♣ J103

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

* non-minimum

Partner leads ♥5 and declarer decides you have ♥K because he plays ♥A and leads ♠J. This you win (perhaps we should have asked?), partner signalling odd and you cash ♥K. Partner's follow-suit heart shows he started with three. How will you continue?

Solutions on Page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Here's a trivia question for you. How many ABF-affiliated bridge clubs are there in Victoria? It might be more than you think!

In this new series, we learn some more about some of the clubs around the state, starting with:

YARRA VALLEY BRIDGE CLUB



The Yarra Valley Bridge Club was established 40 years ago when the late Mrs Dorothy O'Neill gathered together 14 friends to learn bridge. Peter Hayward, a teacher with the VBA, agreed to give lessons in his own home in Croydon. After completing 14 comprehensive lessons, the club was formed in early 1968. Pat Hayward was appointed our first paid director. We moved to our present East Ringwood address in 1981. Daytime play has been elsewhere for many years.



East Ringwood Senior Citizens' Centre

To mark the occasion of the club's 40th anniversary, in June we held a celebratory dinner at the Dorset Hotel, the venue for our annual congresses in the early years (see August '08 VBA Bulletin). At the dinner it was announced that Aileen Bullen, Claire Lewis, Monica Murphy and Marjorie Stewart, four of the five living founding members would be made Life Members (Marjorie Saunders was made a Life Member many years ago). Aileen Bullen, Monica Murphy and Marjorie Stewart are still very active. Sadly, Claire Lewis, who had been too ill to play for some time, passed away in October.

The Club has one named championship event, the Harvey Gough Swiss Teams to commemorate a member from many years ago. We have decided to rename it the Quentin van Abbe Swiss Teams in recognition of the contribution made to the Club by Quentin (pictured here) who joined in 1972, is a Grand Master, has been President on more than one occasion, is a Life Member and is still on the Committee and making a valuable contribution.



YVBC Congress

The Club's congress is held every year in early February, this year on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February (registration from 9.00am; play begins at 10.00am). It will be held again at the Hungarian Community Centre in Boronia Road, Wantirna (Melway 63 F5).

We jealously guard our spot as the first club congress of the year and despite its timeslot between the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra and the Gold Coast Congress it is popular and well attended with numbers growing rapidly since we moved the venue to the Hungarian Community Centre. Last year we had 100 pairs and 43 teams; it was the largest club congress in Victoria.



Congress 2008 at the Hungarian Community Centre

The Future

Membership of the Club is essentially static with daytime attendance increasing at the expense of night-time. An important part of this is that we are forced at the moment to use two venues with all the duplication and inconvenience this causes and we are limited to two night sessions. We are confident that we could expand the club if we could consolidate into one venue and increase the number of sessions. We are, therefore, vigorously pursuing discussions with the Maroondah Council with a view to building an extension to the existing centre at East Ringwood. We dare to be optimistic.

Postal Address:

PO Box 104
East Ringwood, Vic, 3135

Venues and times:

East Ringwood Senior Citizens' Centre
Laurence Grove, East Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood East Railway Station)

Mondays: 7:30 pm

Thursdays: 7:30 pm

Ringwood Federation Estate
Greenwood Ave, Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood Railway Station)

Wednesdays: 12:45 pm

Fridays: 12:45 pm

Supervised play and Beginners' Lessons:

Mondays: 7:30 pm

Thursdays: 7:30 pm

(contact Phil Flynn on 0422 124 659)

President and main contact:

John Moir: 03 9870 4490

johnmoir3@bigpond.com

Chief Director:

Martin Willcox

Congress:

Sat 7th February (Swiss Pairs)
Sun 8th February (Swiss Teams)
Hungarian Community Centre
Boronia Road, Wantirna.
Enter on the internet at
www.bridgeunlimited.com,
or enquiries to Clare Stratton
on 03 9725 9806

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN? Blaine Howe

Episode 9 - Deportment

According to the Oxford English Dictionary:

Deportment: Manner of conducting oneself.
Behaviour, conduct, bearing.

I love words like deportment that describe themselves. It exudes politeness, good behaviour and a small part in a Miss Marple show where all about you are either behaving impeccably or getting knocked off by the villain (sounds like bridge, really).

How you conduct yourself has a substantial effect on what is at heart a highly social game. Many bridge players talk about being "in the life" – this refers to the fact that bridge is as much a major social activity for them as it is a competitive activity. Think about that.

When you are dummy, consider yourself the host of the table rather than a competitor and act accordingly. Make your opponents welcome.

There is karma in bad behaviour at the table. You are liable to steel their resolve and make them play better. If this happens to you frequently, you only have yourself to blame.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ AQ8
Dealer: S ♥ 7543
Vul: All ♦ 932
 ♣ 763

 ♠ 4
 ♥ AK9862
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ AKJ

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead is ♥Q. East throws the ♠5. Plan the play. Solution on page 6.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: N	♠ 98654			
Vul: N/S	♥ 7			
	♦ K95			
	♣ AK72			
♠ 107			♠ QJ32	
♥ AK952			♥ 864	
♦ 8632			♦ A4	
♣ Q6			♣ J853	
	♠ AK			
	♥ QJ103			
	♦ QJ107			
	♣ 1094			

You have 2 tricks and can see another; partner's ♥6 is the key here – ♥43 are missing and partner can't have both, else why ♥6? Declarer is unlikely to have both, though a 5-major is feasible. But whatever the distribution of the hidden hearts it can do no good to cash your other winner – FIVE is the name of the game. Switch to a black suit – spades look best, declarer has only two and if they are ♠AQ the finesse was always on.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ J			
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ			
	♦ A752			
	♣ AQ765			
♠ 976			♠ A5432	
♥ 954			♥ K8	
♦ KQ3			♦ 1096	
♣ K942			♣ J103	
	♠ KQ108			
	♥ 107632			
	♦ J84			
	♣ 8			

Partner has started trumps with a view to cutting dummy's ruffing power. It would be useful to have partner on lead, to play another trump. He obviously hasn't a quick entry, but there may be something to be made of diamonds. So switch a diamond - which? It seems natural to play ♦10 but remember we want partner on lead. The "right" card here is ♦6 – ♦10 is expensive.

It is very hard to see, but declarer has to duck a diamond to prepare his end-game. If you lead ♦10 he won't cover and will let it

win. if partner plays ♦Q on ♦10 It won't help – that sets up a finesse in diamonds. So you found this brilliant ♦6, partner played ♦Q, which held, so he could lead ♥9. Declarer ruffed a club to hand and squeezed partner in the minors – but you did your best!

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ AQ8			
Dealer: S	♥ 7543			
Vul: All	♦ 932			
	♣ 763			
♠ 109763			♠ KJ52	
♥ QJ10			♥ -	
♦ 10			♦ J87654	
♣ 10842			♣ Q95	
	♠ 4			
	♥ AK9862			
	♦ AKQ			
	♣ AKJ			


Line 1. Close your eyes and take a black finesse. Chance of success: 50%.

Line 2. Cash ace-king of clubs, and if the queen doesn't drop, finesse the spade. Chance of success: about 54%, but you might go two down.

Line 3. Cash the red-suit tops and then take a black finesse against the player who appears to have more black cards. Chance of success: fifty-something%.

Line 4. Cash the second heart, *spade ace*, three top diamonds and endplay West with a heart. You will make if *either* black finesse is working. Chance of success: 75%.

Lines 2 and 3 show good thinking, but line 4 is the correct play.




Summer Series 2009

BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS

at the VBA

131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena



When? Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 12th February

Where? Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms
131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

Cost? \$135 per person (students and under 30s \$80) includes:
- 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons
- Certificate on completion
- 6 Free Supervised Playing Vouchers 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

CANBERRA DEPT OF DEFENCE - I
Bill Jacobs

Dealer: E	♠ K	
Vul: Both	♥ J64	
	♦ KQJ1074	
	♣ K87	
♠ J75		♠ A10864
♥ AQ9		♥ 1073
♦ 96		♦ 832
♣ Q10642		♣ A9
	♠ Q932	
	♥ K852	
	♦ A5	
	♣ J53	

1) You cannot know for certain whether to unblock the spade jack. In most likely layouts, it doesn't matter what you do at trick 2. The details are "left to the reader".

2) When declarer cashes the diamond ace, there is one card you "know" partner has. The club ace. Because if declarer has it, he has nine tricks for the taking. This is the same principle as placing partner with the heart jack in the "For Starters" problem: *assume partner has the card(s) you need.*

At the National Open Teams in Canberra, the defender in the West seat, playing for a high-ranked team, missed the inference. He unblocked the spade jack, and this was the position when the last diamond was cashed:

Dealer: E	♠	
Vul: Both	♥ J64	
	♦ 7	
	♣ K8	
♠ 7		♠ 1084
♥ AQ		♥ 10
♦		♦
♣ Q106		♣ A9
	♠ 93	
	♥ K8	
	♦	
	♣ J5	

On the last diamond, West pitched the heart queen (the setting trick!), pointlessly holding on to his club stopper. That might save an overtrick in some layouts, but this was imp.

Declarer played a heart to the king and ace, and when West played the third spade, 9 tricks had miraculously appeared.

RECENT RESULTS

Christmas Teams

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, L. Gold, P. Hollands, J. Howard
- 2 C. Hughes, T. Chira, M. Woods, D. Hohor
- 3 M. Tencer, B. Tencer, G. Gaspar, M. Chrapot

VBA Mixed Pairs

Championship

- 1 R. Szabo-Bencze – S. Vardi
- 2 M. Tencer – M. Chrapot
- 3 S. Pick – G. Pick

Plate

- 1 E. Hardy – J. Fust
- 2 S. Gerdan – M. Balint
- 3 F. Halmos – R. Ellery

VBA Unmixed Pairs

Championship

- 1 S. Klofa – R. Livingston
- 2 R. Gallus – J. Selwyn
- 3 E. Matheson – E. Linton

Plate

- 1 J. Fleiszig – T. Kay
- 2 R. O'Dell – M. Tildesley
- 3 S. Arber – L. Meyer

VBA Summer Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Dilks – E. Pencharz
- 2 H. Louie – C. Louie
- 3 C. Arul – H. Stewart

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Wardle, B. Kingham, J. Rosen, P. Hollands
- 2 P. Schroor, D. Sheather, J. Magee, T. Strong
- 3 R. Livingston, M. Weinberg, P. Hill, A. Halmos

VBA Xmas Charity Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Nakanishi – S. Ozenir
- 2 S. Hinge – B. Howe
- 3 D. Smith – R. Drew

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

2008 NATIONAL McCUTCHEON RESULTS

Victorians who were placed in the top ten places for each masterpoint category:

Overall:

8th George Gaspar (VBA)

Silver Grand Masters:

3rd George Gaspar (VBA)

Grand Masters:

10th Jill Magee (VBA)

Gold Life Masters:

4th Rex Livingston (Yarra Valley)

Silver Life Masters:

1st Justin Howard (Alphington)

6th Paul Hill (Yarra Valley)

Bronze Life Masters:

1st Andrew Hegedus (VBA)

9th Steven White (Moonee Valley)

10th Faye Rowlands (South Gippsland)

Life Masters:

4th Kae French (Moonee Valley)

**National Masters:

8th George Ashby (Berwick)

*National Masters:

2nd Helen Stewart (Yarra Valley)

National Masters:

2nd Nathan Howard (Alphington)

State Masters:

3rd Chula Naranong (Waverley)

6th Arul Chelliah (Waverley)

*Regional Masters:

1st Frank Arndt (South Gippsland)

4th Wendy Sizeland (Ravens)

6th Teresa Pietrzak (Moonee Valley)

Regional Masters:

2nd Clive Hope (South Gippsland)

**Local Masters

3rd Kim Frazer (Moonee Valley)

Graduate Masters:

2nd Julie Farmer (Lakes Entrance)

5th Kaye Douglas (Phillip Island)

10th Joan Davis (Geelong)

2008 MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS

Congratulations to overall winner Peter Hollands, a Victorian belonging to the ABF Youth Club.

Divisional winners were:

Gold Grand: Andrew Mill (Alphington)

Silver Grand: George Gaspar (VBA)

Grand: Rex Livingston (VBA)

Gold Life: Justin Howard (Alphington)

Silver Life: Andrew Hegedus (VBA)

Bronze Life: Peter Hollands (Youth)

Life: Chrstine Parkin (Yarra Valley)

**National: Ferdinand Meerbach (Warrnambool)

*National: Nathan Howard (Alphington)

National: Chula Naranong (Waverley)

*State: Kim Frazer (Moonee Valley)

State: Clive Hope (South Gippsland)

*Regional: Ann Camamile (Yarra Valley)

Regional: Fatma Ahmet (Moonee Valley)

**Local: Julie Farmer (Lakes Entrance)

*Local: Patrick Zhang (VBA)

Local: Kaye Douglas (Phillip Island)

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to the following members on their master point promotions:

Club Master Maurice Bolling
 Annie Lowe
 Anne St George

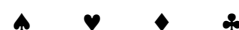
Local Master Mary Williams
 Helen Evans
 Basic Shanahan

*Local Master Rosemary O'Connor
 Sena Hasthanayake

**Local Master Marion Burns

Regional Master Ed Beaumont
 Leslie Goldschlager
 Bert Van Eijk

*National Master Christina Macquarrie



In the last 10 Vic Open team playoffs, the Butler team has won once – in 2001.

There are 49 affiliated clubs in Victoria.