

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

On Giving Up

Everyone is vulnerable at IMPs, and you hold:

♠ AJ983 ♥ 654 ♦ Q105 ♣ AJ

RHO deals and, playing standard methods with a strong 1NT opening, opens 1♣. The auction proceeds:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
			1♣
1♠	D'ble*	Pass	1NT**
Pass	3NT	All pass	

* Negative double, implying 4 hearts

** 12-14 points

Happy with this auction?

Delighted. 1♠ was the correct bid. Doubling "because you have an opening hand" is wrong, because it doesn't show the 5-card spade suit. Passing would be even worse.

So now, what do you lead?

You should lead the spade eight – fourth highest of your longest and strongest.

Were you thinking of staying away from the suit, worried that it would give declarer a free trick? That's good thinking up to a point, but even if it happens, giving declarer an undeserved spade trick might be akin to losing the battle but winning the war. Ultimately, your best chance of beating 3NT is to establish the spade suit, and the opening lead is your opportunity to start the process.

Partner probably doesn't have the spade king, but with a bit of luck, he will hold the queen, or even the 10, and you will be well on the way to establishing the suit.

And if you *don't* lead a spade, what suit do you lead? Nothing seems remotely attractive.

You lead the spade eight, and see this:

♠ 4
♥ AQJ3
♦ A642
♣ Q1095

♠ AJ983
♥ 654
♦ Q105
♣ AJ

Your side plays standard signals. The first trick goes spade 8, 4, 2, 10. That's not so good.

Declarer comes out with the club deuce. Your play?

First, count the points. You have 12, dummy has 13, declarer has announced 12-14. That leaves 1-3 points for partner.

Maybe partner has the club king, in which case if you let him win the first club, he can play a spade back. This will let you establish the spade suit, whilst you still hold the club ace.

So you play the club jack, but dummy's queen wins, partner following 3. The next trick goes club 10, 7, 4, and you win the ace.

So let's see. Dummy has 13 points opposite an opening bid. Your opening lead has given declarer a spade trick he didn't deserve. And your club jack has proved useless.

Are you depressed? Do you give up? Or do you continue playing, and if so, what is your next card?

Most people would give up. Too many bad things have happened on this hand, and all you want to do is get on to the next board.

It's human nature, but giving up must be resisted. In fact, your chances of beating 3NT are still quite good if you think it through.

Declarer clearly has ♠KQ10x and the club king. If he has the heart king, then indeed you are finished, but if partner has that card, then declarer doesn't have 9 tricks yet.

You should continue with the spade 9, giving declarer his second trick in the suit, but

threatening to run spades if partner can get in with the heart king. Here is the full deal:

	♠ 4	
	♥ AQJ3	
	♦ A642	
	♣ Q1095	
♠ AJ983		♠ 652
♥ 654		♥ K87
♦ Q105		♦ 9873
♣ AJ		♣ 763
	♠ KQ107	
	♥ 1092	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ K842	

Declarer wins your spade return and cashes two more clubs, but you coolly discard two little hearts. The heart finesse loses to partner's king, and the third spade comes through. The defence takes three spades, one club and one heart for a well-earned down-one.¹

Points to remember:

- It's usually wrong to avoid leading your long suit just because declarer has advertised a stopper in that suit. Leading your suit might initially cost a trick (losing the battle) but eventually it could let you establish and run the suit (winning the war).
- Count the points – I've said this before. It's particularly helpful when declarer has shown a specific point range with a notrump bid. In this case, you can place partner with 1-3 points: invaluable data for the defence.
- Be mentally tough and never surrender. Churchill was right.

¹ In fact declarer misplayed the hand. Do you see how he could and should have made 3NT?

When you return the spade 9 at trick 4, declarer needs to duck this trick – a most unusual hold-up play on the *second* round of the suit.

This stymies the defence by breaking the link between the two defenders. Declarer will lose two spades, one club and one heart, but can take the losing heart finesse in peace.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ 9876
 Vul: Both ♥ A
 ♦ J76532
 ♣ K3

♠ QJ10542
 ♥ 932
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ A5

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

- 1 14-16 HCP
- 2 a major
- 3 natural
- 4 asking for stopper

You start ♠Q and are disconcerted when partner discards ♣4 (natural signals). ♠A wins, declarer crosses to ♥A (♥6 from partner), and plays a diamond ♦8, ♦10 and your ♦Q. How will you defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ AQ1087
 Vul: N/S ♥ K94
 ♦ A2
 ♣ Q83

♠ KJ632
 ♥ Q872
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3NT*
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* pre-empt in a minor

You start ♠3 and declarer wins dummy's ♠A (partner ♠9) and plays a club to ♣K, then another club, you ♠2, ♣Q and partner's ♠A. He returns ♠4. What comes next?

Solutions on page 5.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Geelong Bridge Club

One of the oldest and most thriving clubs in the state, the Geelong Bridge Club was formed in 1969, with Jeanne and Major Frank Heweston being its driving forces.

Its first sessions were held in the Royal Commonwealth Society Rooms in Newton. As the club grew, it shifted to the Community Aid Abroad rooms in Fenwick Street, then St Giles Church Hall in Gheringhap Street, and then the Corio Theatre Building in Little Malop Street.

And when SEC strikes resulted in the occasional banning of all public meetings, the club followed the lead of the floating craps game in *Guys and Dolls*, and moved its games to private homes.

Finally, in 1984, the club purchased land and built its current landscaped premises at Portarlington Street, Newcomb (pictured below).



In the early days of the club, the VBA's Ern Palfreyman was a guiding light, answering questions, teaching how to score duplicates, and encouraging the club to run a congress.

And Geelong has been running an annual congress since 1974. For many years, this was a splendid 4-day event over the Queens Birthday weekend in June, and the venue was the delightful Aberdeen Chateau. It was one of the two major congress events on the Victorian bridge calendar (together with the VBA's Moomba congress) and not to be missed. On the Sunday before the start of play in the teams event, all players were invited to the clubrooms for some typical Geelong-style hospitality.

Nowadays, the calendar is more hectic, and the Geelong Congress is held on the last weekend of June.

The club has produced some top-class players, none more so than Gary Ridgway and Arthur Robbins, who have represented Victoria at open and senior level on many occasions. An exceptional result for the club was when Gary and Arthur teamed up with Denny Newland and Doug Newlands to make the final of the 2004 Australian Grand National Open Teams.



Arthur, Gary, Denny and Doug at the 2004 GNOT

Gary, by the way, is the only person in the world to have played in every Australian National Open Teams event – a streak that started in 1973 and is still going strong. In the first match he played in 1973, he and his team (Joan Wilson, Elsa Kuylaars and Jeanne Heweston) were pitted against Seres, Cummings, Smilde and Howard. "I think if they had given us a 100 imp start, we may have narrowly won the match," recalls Gary.



Terry Willoughby, Valerie Ratcliffe, Suzanne Smith and Margaret Glover in the Geelong Club Rooms

The club's oldest member is Olga Jacobs, who turned 100 last year, and is still playing.

Venue:	148-152 Portarlington Road Newtown 3219
Phone:	(03) 5248 2978
Web:	http://www.geelong.bridge-club.org/
Duplicates:	12: 30 pm Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 7: 30 pm Wednesdays 9: 45 am Tuesdays (novice)
Congress:	27-28 June at Highton Bowls Club, cnr Roslyn and North Valley Roads, Highton Sat: Swiss Pairs, 1:30 pm Sun: Swiss Teams, 10:00 am Open and Restricted events Lunch included on Sunday Entries: suerob@ncable.net.au or www.bridgeunlimited.com





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Where : VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Rd, Hughesdale.
Lunch : Soup, Sandwiches, Mains, Deserts and Drinks are available.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ 9876	
Vul: Both	♥ A	
	♦ J76532	
	♣ K3	
♠ QJ10542		♠ -
♥ 932		♥ J865
♦ AQ		♦ K98
♣ A5		♣ J108764
	♠ AK3	
	♥ KQ1074	
	♦ 104	
	♣ Q92	

Whilst the spades are disappointing, put any thought of developing tricks in partner's hand out of your mind, because there would be no communication. It is *your* hand with the long suit and the entries. Persist with spades. As long as partner has either ♦K or ♥K, there should be only 8 tricks for declarer.

In actual play, West panicked, playing ♣A at this point and, after ♦A, a heart into ♥KQ10.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E	♠ AQ1087	
Vul: N/S	♥ K94	
	♦ A2	
	♣ Q83	
♠ KJ632		♠ 94
♥ Q872		♥ AJ1065
♦ Q84		♦ J973
♣ 2		♣ A5
	♠ 5	
	♥ 3	
	♦ K1065	
	♣ KJ109764	

Your first major suit try got nowhere, now to try the other. Your next card must be ♥Q. Later you aren't surprised to learn that the auction and defence were identical at the other table, even to East's ♠9 – ♠4.

In the other semi from the Gold Coast teams (2009). 3NT from North was down one after a heart lead, and at the other table Peter Gill (Australia) reached the superior 5♣.

We notice that the Souths would have made 3NT by playing ♠Q at trick 1. Is that a better play?

**NORTHERN REGION PLAYERS WIN
GRIFFITH TEAMS EVENT
Jan Hackett**

Yarrowonga Bridge Club members Jan and Tom Hackett and Maggie Brown and John Nankervis from the Ovens and Murray club participated in the Griffith congress over the weekend of March 14 and 15th.

Both partnerships initially played well in the pairs on Saturday, finishing high in the qualifying round, but then crashed spectacularly to end up near the bottom of the field in the final.

Things were not looking promising against 18 others in the teams' event on Sunday, but bridge players are nothing if not optimistic, so the four did turn up to play again the next day. After three good wins in the morning, the two small losses in the early matches of the afternoon were a disappointment. However, the team came home strongly with a maximum win in the final match to win overall by a margin of one point from John Brockwell's team.

There were many challenging hands. This was one which helped them to a big win over another highly fancied team.

Dealer: E	♠ AK9				
Vul: E/W	♥ 6				
	♦ QJ10853				
	♣ QJ7				
♠ 8532				♠ 1074	
♥ AJ4				♥ K975	
♦ AK7				♦ 62	
♣ 432				♣ 10865	
	♠ QJ6				
	♥ Q10832				
	♦ 94				
	♣ AK9				

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

Against 3NT, Jan, sitting West, led the spade 5. Declarer took the trick in hand and led a small diamond. After a bit of thought, West took the trick with the king and led – a small heart. This seemed fairly dangerous since South had opened 1♥, but it appeared to be

the only chance. She was hoping partner Tom would have something good to promote her jack.

And so he did, producing the king. Then it was his turn to think. There was no point in playing back a spade with the ace-king visible in dummy. And West had not led a club, so he dutifully returned a small heart. Jan took two more heart tricks and the diamond ace to set the contract one trick.

At the other table, the defence slipped. The heart switch was not found, and John Nankervis sitting South had no trouble wrapping up 11 tricks for a very healthy gain for the team.



(l-r) John Nankervis, Jan Hackett, Maggie Brown, Tom Hackett

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

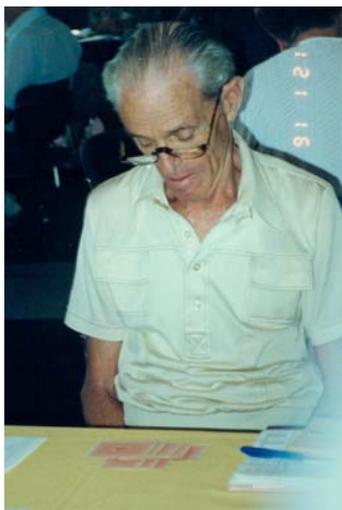
Club Master	Avi Rauchberger Tony Warnock
Local Master	Christopher Salter
*Local Master	John Spender
**Local Master	Jerzy Cholewka
State Master	Helen Ingram Kumara Nainanayake
*State Master	Dinny Downie Every Hechtman
National Master	Jeffrey Lacey
Life Master	David Sharman
Grand Master	Kitty Muntz

Don't miss out on the upcoming Rothfield Swiss Teams at the VBA. Four Wednesdays: June 10, 17, 24 and July 1.

**GOING STRONG – VICTOR MUNTZ
Bill Jacobs**

At table 1 of the final round of the recent Fred Altman Swiss Pairs, Ben Thompson and I were pitted against the father-daughter pair of Victor and Kitty Muntz. How impressive it was to see Victor, who turns 90 in October, at table 1 of a major event.

At age 7 in 1926 Victor was allowed to watch his father's regular rubber bridge game around the kitchen table. This was only one year after Vanderbilt modified the rules to turn auction bridge into the contract bridge we play now. By age 12 Victor and school mates had a regular weekly game going after school. It was the start of a lifelong love of the game.



In 1949 Victor and his wife Jane emigrated to Australia and from 1950 to 1971 Victor played regular rubber bridge with Harry Silver, Alan and John Selwyn, and others. The stakes were £1 per 100 points: Victor could not afford that, so he paid half and the others covered the remaining half. He had an agreement with Jane that any winnings could be used to fund his growing stamp collection. Over the years he put \$15,000 into stamps, all funded from bridge winnings. These rubber bridge games were quite fast – they played on Saturday afternoons, typically getting through 20 rubbers.

Victor has played tournament bridge in Victoria with distinction over 5 decades. He first represented the state in Open competition at the 1972 ANC - and Victoria won the event that year - and since then has played many times on both Open and Seniors teams – most recently on the Seniors team in 2007.

In 2009, he has lost none of his sharpness:

Dealer: W	Kitty	
Vul: E/W	♠ 5	
	♥ 10	
	♦ AJ92	
	♣ QJ108743	
Ben		Bill
♠ KJ84		♠ Q1076
♥ Q53		♥ K864
♦ KQ54		♦ 873
♣ A2		♣ 95
	Victor	
	♠ A932	
	♥ AJ972	
	♦ 106	
	♣ K6	

West	North	East	South
Ben	Kitty	Bill	Victor
1NT	D'ble*	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	D'ble	Re'dble
Pass	Pass	2♥	D'ble
2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
D'ble	4♣	All Pass	

* Double = any one suiter

The auction was spirited to say the least. As South Victor doubled 2♥, and then bid 3NT on thin values – surely this is not bidding that one expects from a budding nonagenarian? But when Ben cleverly doubled 3NT (doubling the contract he didn't want to defend in order to have it removed), Kitty reasonably ran to 4♣.

On the diamond king lead, Victor wrapped up 11 tricks in a hurry, and then it was on to phase 2 of the hand – the post mortem.

"You should pass 3NT" exclaimed Victor. "Spades are obviously 4-4." Kitty reached for the next board.

But there is a lead that wrecks 3NT – a top diamond. This will extract North's entry to the clubs, and now you cannot even make **one** no-trump. How's this for a delicate chain of inferences:

- When East bids 2♥ (not 2♦), his likely shape is 4=4=3=2
- North's voluntary 3♣ suggests 7 clubs
- So clubs are 7-2-2-2 around the table, and if you can kill dummy's entry ...
- South is clearly prepared for the majors, so North's entry is likely in diamonds

Ah, 20-20 hindsight is a wonderful thing!

RECENT RESULTS

ANZAC Congress Addendum

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Downie – T. Young

Restricted Swiss Teams

- 1 C. Naranong, A. Laughlin, B. Coling, R. Gordon

Thwaites Mixed Pairs

Championship

- 1 F. Beale – R. van Riel
- 2 P. Schroor – D. Sheather
- 3 K. Bechet – C. Hughes

Restricted Section

- 1 D. Middleton – J. Adams
- 2 B. Edelman – P. Knightley
- 3 C. Whiddon – J. Bristow

Plate

- 1 D. Smart – I. McCance
- 2 S. Pick – G. Pick
- 3 P. Hemingway – S. Arber

Consolation

- 1 J. Thompson – B. Thompson
- 2 L. Young – B. Young
- 3 K. Muntz – M. Phillips

VBA Open Pairs

Championship

- 1 D. Hohor – T. Chira
- 2 F. Halmos – J. Bennett
- 3 M. Allison – H. Stewart

Plate

- 1 A. Blecher – G. Lovrecz
- 2 C. Arul – K. Nainanayake
- 3 J. Judah – H. Ingram



**THROWING DUST IN THE EYES
Bill Jacobs**

IMPs	♠ 654		
Dealer: S	♥ Q32		
Vul: Both	♦ Q6		
	♣ AJ1076		
♠ K109		♠ Q8732	
♥ J106		♥ K984	
♦ K1054		♦ A3	
♣ 832		♣ 95	
	♠ AJ		
	♥ A75		
	♦ J9872		
	♣ KQ4		

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

Trick 1: diamond 4, 6, ace, 7.
Trick 2: diamond 3, jack(!), king, queen

West, certain his partner started with Axxxx in diamonds continued with the diamond 10, and suddenly declarer had the next 9 tricks: five clubs, two diamonds and two aces.

What a beautiful game it is.



After 4 years in the planning, Waverley Bridge Club is finally under construction. A combined financial effort of Waverley Bridge Club members' debentures, a calisthenics club (which will occupy half the building), contributions from both local and state government and a low interest loan from the ABF's James O'Sullivan Trust Fund, construction is ahead of schedule, and it is hoped that it will be completed by the end of the year. Members are becoming excited about the prospect of new purpose-built clubrooms!