

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

December 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

NEVER TOO YOUNG

On 6th November, Cathie Lachman was invited by St Catherine's school to meet a group of Grade 4 girls who participate in a weekly bridge session conducted by VBA member Maggie Kelly. The pictured girls are part of the accelerated maths program, and are grasping the wonderful problems that bridge presents.



Cathie's visit was followed up the following week by Lucy Henbest and Laura Ginnan (both youth players) and the girls are now keener than ever to progress their bridge careers.

The following email was received from the school principal:

Dear Cathie,

I'm sorry I missed meeting you last week. Everyone said it was fabulous. You have a photo and a small article in this newsletter – it's in the Principal's blog.

We've just had Lucy and Laura here. They were naturals. The girls just wanted to keep playing.

*Regards
Sandra Allen*



MECHANICAL ERRORS

	Dummy	You
	♥ KJ87654	♥ AQ
♥ 2		
	♥ 10	

Declarer leads the ♥10 from hand, partner follows with ♥2.

Scenario 1. Dummy plays the four. You win the **ace**.

Scenario 2. Dummy plays the king. You play the **queen**.

Two mechanical errors? Or is there something deeper?

WEBMASTER STRIKES BACK

Blaine Howe is in the process of re-building the VBA website from scratch. If you haven't visited it recently, you should to see the work in progress.

There are many innovations on the site, and more are planned for 2010. It is becoming a world-leading site in terms of the bridge services offered. There are too many to list here, but if you click on [Webmaster Strikes](#) from the home-page, you will see a list. Other state association sites may have some of these features – none will have them all.

Attention State Competition Players!

Do you intend to play in the Interstate Butler Stage 1? It commences on Wednesday 27th January 2010.

Entries will close on Monday 25th January 2010.

Late entries will be considered at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director – **DON'T MISS OUT – ENTER BEFORE XMAS TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

With everyone vulnerable, playing IMPs, you pick up:

♠ 10953 ♥ AKJ1064 ♦ 5 ♣ Q7

RHO deals and opens 2♦. LHO waves an alert card at you, and explains that this is the dreaded multi – a weak two in one of the majors, or a strong balanced hand.

Your bid.

This is one of the many downsides of the multi. It allows you a cheap 2♥ bid. If RHO had instead opened 2♠, you would have to bid hearts at the three level, which is uncomfortably high, given your moderate hand.

RHO *could* have the strong balanced hand, but you have reasonable playing strength, and would be unlucky to get doubled in 2♥ for a bad score.

Meanwhile 2♥ could allow your side to compete effectively – it might even be a winning contract. And if LHO becomes declarer, then you would welcome a heart lead from partner.

You overcall 2♥ and LHO disdainfully bids 3NT, ending the auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		2♦	2♥
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Partner leads the ♥5, and you see:

♠ AQ8762	
♥ 7	
♦ J42	
♣ J85	
	♠ 10953
	♥ AKJ1064
	♦ 5
	♣ Q7

What do you do?

Declarer will have ♥Q as his stopper. Partner's ♥5 is therefore from a singleton, doubleton or tripleton. A singleton would be bad news, as declarer would then have ♥Q9xxx. A doubleton, or maybe three small, is what you must play for.

Since you have no certain entry outside of hearts, you should put in the ♥10, which will keep the communication lines open with partner. If partner gets in later, he can play another heart, and you can run the suit.

However, if you play hearts from the top, the link with partner is broken.

You put in ♥10, declarer wins ♥Q, plays ♦3 to ♦J (partner following ♦6) and leads a diamond off dummy. You must discard.

Presumably if partner had a diamond honour, he would already have played it, so declarer is running a solid diamond suit. You must prepare yourself for a number of discards.

Therefore it's not just this trick to be considered, but at least two more after that.

So I'd like a long term plan, please.

You want to keep as many hearts as possible, because ultimately they are the setting tricks.

As for spades, you have the stopper. Partner probably has something like ♠Kx, with declarer having a singleton, although it's just possible that it's declarer that has ♠Kx. So you must keep at least three spades, preferably all four of them.

It's your clubs that are useless. The ♣Q cannot contribute anything in particular to the defence. You should throw both your clubs on the second and third round of diamonds, clearly telling partner that he is officer-in-charge of the club protection.

On the fourth diamond, you have a choice. Throwing a heart caters to declarer having ♠Kx. Throwing a spade caters to declarer having a spade void! Neither scenario is particularly likely. The key point is to discard your clubs.

Mercifully, there is no fifth round of diamonds, as this is the full deal:

	♠ AQ8762	
	♥ 7	
	♦ J42	
	♣ J85	
♠ K4		♠ 10953
♥ 53		♥ AKJ1064
♦ 109876		♦ 5
♣ K432		♣ Q7
	♠ J	
	♥ Q982	
	♦ AKQ3	
	♣ A1096	

And the position is now:

	♠ AQ876	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ J85	
♠ K4		♠ 1095
♥ 3		♥ AKJ64
♦ 10		♦
♣ K432		♣
	♠ J	
	♥ 982	
	♦	
	♣ A1096	

Declarer is without recourse. He can cash the club ace (you will come down to four hearts and three spades) and take the winning spade finesse, but you will have the rest.

If declarer exits with a club, partner wins, as you throw a spade. Partner can cash his long diamond and play his precious second heart.

And if declarer exits with a heart, that will work no better.

Points to remember:

- Don't be afraid to make an overcall on minimum values with a strong suit. This acts as a good "lead director" for partner, and the suit's strength suggests that you are less likely to be doubled.
- If declarer has a certain stopper in your suit, it can be to your advantage to make him take it early, so that partner still has a link to your hand.

- When you are facing multiple discards, as here, make your plan up front. It will work better that way. You don't want to be thinking later: "oh no, not another damned diamond ... now what will I do?"
- Did you notice that declarer misplayed the hand? He needed to let you win ♥10 at trick 1. This would have killed the link between the two defensive hands. It was a strange deal: whoever managed to lose trick 1 will win in the end.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: W	♠ KQ6		
Vul: nil	♥ 10764		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ K763		
		♠ 4	
		♥ A8	
		♦ 1083	
		♣ QJ98542	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♣	D'ble
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads his ♣10, which runs to declarer's ♣A. Declarer crosses to ♦Q to lead a trump. How will you defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ A95
Vul: E/W	♥ -
	♦ A10854
	♣ J8764

♠ QJ1076
♥ K8754
♦ J63
♣ -

West	North	East	South
	2NT*	Pass	5♣
D'ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

* minors, 5+/5+

You lead ♠Q to ♠A, partner encouraging. Next comes a low trump, partner's ♣K and declarer's ♣A. Next comes ♥J: what do you think about that? Will you cover?

Solutions on page 8.

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Waverley Bridge Club

Waverley BC started operating in 1971 when it was suggested to Denis Jay that he could make use of his art gallery in the Pinewood Shopping Centre in Mount Waverley for running a bridge club. Unexpectedly huge crowds – up to 3 tables - turned up in the early days! Through various moves the club expanded until Ashwood Hall in Electra Ave Ashwood was chosen as the sole premises.

Nearly 5 years ago, Ray Anderson met with the then Monash Mayor – Joy Banerji – for a cup of coffee and a chat and raised the notion of building new clubrooms. Happily the Mayor showed interest and negotiations started. Now, millions of words later, the club has achieved its aim and work has been completed on a new Community Centre on the Electra Reserve behind Ashwood Hall. The WBC Committee headed by the President, Iris Carling, has spent much time and effort working on all aspects of the new building; Ray Anderson and Trish Henderson, though not members of the Committee, have dedicated a large amount of time to help ensure that our new clubrooms are the best they can possibly be.

It revives one's faith in local government to know that Monash Council was prepared to spend \$2.3 million of its own money on a facility to house a bridge club, a children's calisthenics club and a croquet club! What a wonderfully eclectic group! The State Government has come to the party to the tune of \$500,000, WBC has put in over \$500,000 and the Calisthenics Club is contributing \$330,000. WBC Members have been most generous in buying debentures to help raise our share of the money. The building will belong to Monash Council, but Waverley Bridge Club will have a licence to use the premises for 25 years, with a semi-automatic extension of 10 years.

Waverley will have up to 50 tables with an option of more space for congresses. The Club will be operating 7 days a week, 14 hours a day, and is looking forward to expanding its services. Members will be welcome to spend time in the clubrooms during the afternoons, possibly to enjoy a

little bridge with friends! We plan to run irregular Sunday Green Point competitions, informal days to have fun, share a slice or two of pizza and indulge in a little friendly good quality bridge. Other clubs will be able to make use of the rooms for Congresses.



The new premises

WBC membership is growing and currently there are over 700 members. Waverley prides itself on being a friendly club, and whilst it takes its bridge very seriously, makes sure that new, inexperienced and social players are well catered for. Any club is only as good as its directors and Waverley is very proud of the team of Martin Willcox, the Chief Director, Judy Bayliss, Brian Mee, Paula Schroor, Trish Kersey and Mary Elson.

After the club moves to the Electra Community Centre, sessions will be held 6 days a week:

Duplicates:

10.00 am and 7.30 pm Monday - Thursday
 10.30 am and 7.30 pm Friday
 1.00 pm Saturday
 Bring lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Events:

Red point events are held regularly. Check the website for more information.

Nationwide Pairs are normally held the first and third Friday of every month.

Several special events are held each year and offer Red Point awards – notably our most successful Mid-Winter party which is a one day Swiss Pairs offering a catered lunch, and the traditional Cup Day Party.

Supervised:

1.30 am – 4.00 pm Monday
 7.30 pm – 10.30 pm Thursday
 10.30 am - 1.00 pm Friday

Currently supervised sessions are run by Mary Elson and always begin with a 20 minute clinic. On Friday morning the talk begins at 10.00 a.m. and is aimed at intermediate players, but newer players may find it to be of interest also. Watch out for information about new training sessions to be run periodically on Wednesdays.

A new supervised session to be run on Tuesday afternoons by Paula Schroor will begin next year.

Beginners' Lessons

Classes for beginners are run twice a year – February/March and August/September. The course runs for 8 weeks and each lesson is given twice a week – Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening – to cater for as many people as possible.

Workshops

Regular workshops and Intermediate courses are held each year. In 2010 Wednesday afternoons or evenings will often be used for these sessions.

Parties

Parties are regular events. Most Monday nights turn into a bit of a party with members bringing special food and enjoying a fun and relaxed evening run by Paula Schroor.

2009 has been a challenging year for Waverley Bridge Club. We were forced out of our clubrooms for 6 weeks while the roof was being repaired and members learned a whole new level of patience and co-operation while we managed to make the most of our stay in a Scout Hall complex. We put up with heat, noise, porta-loos, eccentric electricity supply, questionable water, vanishing parking spaces and rampant ants and were able to put a whole new face to the word 'rustic'.

Please come and join us for a game in our new rooms. We hope that 2010 will be our best year ever and extend a welcome to any visitors who would like to come along and get acquainted.



(l-r) Iris Carling (President), Margaret Thomas, Maree Anderson and Joan Quirk organising the Cup Day party.

Contact us

Check our website at www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au; email to secretary@waverleybridgeclub.com.au or ring Mary Elson on 9807 6502 for all information on sessions, entries, partners etc.

WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS**Celebrating the opening of the new
Waverley Bridge Club rooms.**

Saturday December 12, 10.00 am Swiss Pairs
 Sunday December 13, 10.00 am Swiss Teams

Cash prizes will be awarded in 3 grades in both events

Waverley Bridge Club Inc.
 Electra Community Centre
 21a Electra Ave.
 Ashwood 3147 (Melways 61 A11)
 behind Ashwood Hall, the old clubrooms.

A light lunch and snacks offered on both days.

Entry fees: Swiss Pairs \$60 per pair
 Swiss Teams \$120 per team
 Payable on the day

Director: Martin Willcox
 Convenor: Trish Henderson
 Entry forms are available in your club, or:
 phone: 9877 5000 or 9807 6502 or enter on
www.bridgeunlimited.com.

BRIDGE APHORISMS – V
COVER AN HONOUR WITH AN HONOUR

A fine aphorism, this one, despite averaging only 5.5 out of 10.

Ben Thompson wanted it rewritten as “*when in doubt, cover an honour with an honour*”.

Kitty Muntz also wanted to clarify the rule – her version is: “cover the last of equal honours”. This is a useful extension, and caters to this common scenario:

	Dummy		You
	QJ9		Kx(x)

Dummy leads the queen. Your best play is usually to *not* cover at this time. Imagine declarer with Axxx(x). Covering the first honour either directly gives declarer an extra trick (where partner has at least 10xx), or gives him a better chance of picking up the suit.

The more common reason for covering an honour with an honour is to develop lower cards in partner’s hand. Here’s a typical layout:

	Jxx	You
10xxx	AQ9	Kxx

Covering the jack is mandatory to give life to partner’s 10.

The main situation where it’s better to *not* cover an honour is where declarer is trying to fish out a queen:

	Jx	You
Axxxx	K10	Qxxx

Declarer needs to guess this suit. Your covering the honour with the honour will do the guessing for him. Of course, if we change the layout just a tiny bit:

	Jx	You
A10xxx	Kx	Qxxx

Declarer suspects that your partner has the ace, perhaps from the bidding. Now you better cover that honour, or else you will fall victim to the dreaded Chinese finesse.

So as usual with these aphorisms, it’s a guideline not a rule. That’s what keeps the game interesting.

My final two examples might come under the heading of “aphorism anti-matter”.

	♠ K76		
	♥ KJ87654		
	♦ -		
	♣ 874		
♠ AQ8		♠ J952	
♥ 92		♥ AQ	
♦ J974		♦ Q10653	
♣ QJ103		♣ 92	
	♠ 1043		
	♥ 103		
	♦ AK82		
	♣ AK65		

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT*
Pass	4♥	All pass	2♥

* 12-14 points

Partner leads the club queen to 4♥. Declarer wins, cashes ♦AK to pitch a spade and a club and plays the ♥10 (technically an error), low, low, ?

The deal is an open book – declarer’s 14 points have been exposed. He has just one further entry to hand to take a finesse, and you want it to be a losing finesse. So play the heart ace now, in tempo, so that he subsequently takes the losing heart finesse, rather than the winning spade finesse.

	♠ 6		
	♥ KJ87654		
	♦ 862		
	♣ AQ		
♠ 1098		♠ 542	
♥ 932		♥ AQ	
♦ KQ4		♦ 753	
♣ 10876		♣ 95432	
	♠ AKQJ73		
	♥ 10		
	♦ AJ109		
	♣ KJ		

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads a trump. South wins and plays ♥10, ♥2, and he guesses to play the king. You smoothly play the queen!

What a brilliancy that would be, but it's the right play. If you win the ace, declarer has little alternative but to subsequently enter dummy with a club and ruff out your heart queen. You know declarer's heart was a singleton, because partner has given you the count in hearts.

Now consider the Machiavellian effect of playing the heart queen on the king, "uncovering the honour", so to speak.

Declarer deduces that hearts are 4-1, so the suit cannot be set up. But he does now have three entries to dummy, which he can use to finesse diamonds three times, guaranteeing the contract as long as you have a diamond honour. But you don't.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Teams Qualifier event

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, C. Hughes, L. Gold, J. Howard, P. Hollands
- 2 M. Dilks, H. Blakeman, S. Hinge, I. Hu, J. Stark, D. Morgan
- 3 D. Hohor, T. Chira, J. Rosen, B. Kingham

VBA Grand Prix Pairs

- 1 C. Arul – R. Ellery
- 2 E. Samuel – J. Fust
- 3 R. Szabo-Bencze – S. Vardi

VBA Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 E. Caplan – J. Alexander
- 2 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 3 S. Stock – B. Tencer

Congratulations to Victorian Leigh Gold and ex-Victorian Jamie Ebery who won the recent Australian Swiss Pairs event held in Launceston.

**The system of Champs!
STANDARD AMERICAN 2 OVER 1**

"Learn a better system, enjoy bridge more"

- Based on Standard American and World Class Players' 2-over-1 style.
- 4 week course, theory and practice
- When: Tuesdays 7.30pm-9.45pm, 12th January, 2nd, 9th and 16th February, 2010
- Cost: \$100 including notes
- Where: VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena
- Please reserve your place before 10th January 2010 with Serhat
- Tel : 0423-642424
or e-mail: sozenir@hotmail.com



Serhat Ozenir

**SLAM BIDDING
MASTERCLASS**



"Bidding and making slams provides the greatest thrill."

Jeff Fust

Learn how Experts find the Slams that you miss.

Saturday 12th December 11am - 4:30pm

- Splinter bids.
- 4th Suit Forcing.
- Roman Key Card Blackwood.

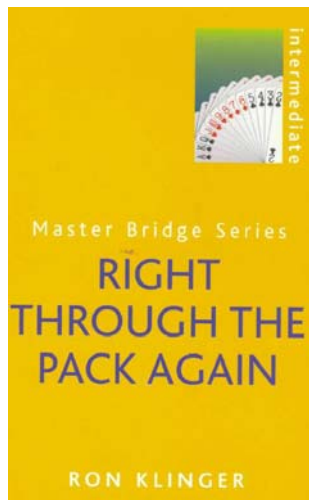
It is not necessary to bring a partner.

- Cost** : \$30 payable on the day (includes booklet and notes)
Payment only by cash or cheque.
- Bookings** : If you want reserve your place, Email jeffafust@yahoo.com
- Where** : VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena.
- Lunch** : 40 min. Soup, Sandwiches, Deserts and Drinks are available.

Members are invited to pay subscriptions for 2010 as they fall due on 1st December, 2009. VBA Handbooks will be available at the AGM next Tuesday.

BOOK REVIEW

Ron Klinger's Old Master has made several appearances in the Bridge World magazine over the last 40 years. The Old Master specializes in the Amazing Comeback, for example winning the match after being 50 imps down with 6 boards to play.



Now he must make one last comeback, as he has slipped into a coma, with only a nurse, an Australian doctor (who plays an unexpectedly vital role in the plot) and the 52 cards to revive him.

Klinger works manfully at creating interesting deals around each card in the pack. It's harder than it looks – one might be inclined to think that a card like the diamond three can never do much more than make the occasional suit preference signal. On the whole he succeeds, and there is a nice variety of themes to read about.

Here is one to whet the appetite.

♠ AK5	♠ QJ3
♥ AK2	♥ QJ5
♦ K62	♦ AJ1074
♣ A743	♣ Q10

After the auction 2NT – 6NT, North leads ♥9. How do you play the hand?

This was a story of the queen of clubs, named "Duck be a lady tonight". (Incidentally, if Klinger ever needs to take a second job, he can walk into a newspaper sub-editor role: some of the punning in the story titles was quite excruciating.)

Clearly the percentage line is to take a diamond finesse through North, but the OM won the first trick in dummy and played the ♣Q. South, with

♠ 942 ♥ 1074 ♦ Q53 ♣ K862

not unreasonably ducked this, and declarer had stolen his 12th trick. Clearly South had ignored our Aphorism of the Month, however he thought declarer might have ♣AJ9x, in which case covering the club would concede a trick.

A very enjoyable read. ...BJ



SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: W	♠ KQ6	
Vul: nil	♥ 10764	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ K763	
♠ AJ10872		♠ 4
♥ Q2		♥ A8
♦ J742		♦ 1083
♣ 10		♣ QJ98542
	♠ 953	
	♥ KJ953	
	♦ AK65	
	♣ A	

Declarer has shown up with ♣A and ♦AK, so there must be a chance that partner has ♠A. Remember that you need 4 tricks, not 3. So go dynamic – pop ♥A to lead a spade, secure your spade ruff and lead a club to try to promote partner's holding in trumps.

Problem 2

Dealer: N	♠ A95	
Vul: E/W	♥ -	
	♦ A10854	
	♣ J8764	
♠ QJ1076		♠ K32
♥ K8754		♥ 10952
♦ J63		♦ KQ9
♣ -		♣ KQ3
	♠ 84	
	♥ AQJ6	
	♦ 72	
	♣ A10952	

Indeed you should cover the heart, else a spade will go away, and another on ♥A. When you do cover, declarer has no immediate path back to hand to cash winners in hearts.