

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2015

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



Recently, I was either disturbed or impressed to read that pigeons are smarter than humans. I still can't decide which. Let me explain.

I was reading an article on Bridge Winners about the Monty Hall Problem (1 of 3 doors has a big prize behind it and you get to choose a door; Monty Hall opens a different door with nothing behind it; do you stay with your original door or switch to the other one?). The comments on the article pointed to a remarkable study showing that pigeons learn the correct strategy (switch) pretty smoothly after a bunch of trials whereas humans ... don't.

Interestingly, pigeons and humans are both inclined to stay with their original choice when they first see the problem but pigeons find it easier to move on. It seems that we humans tend to overthink things and also overinvest in our original random choice whereas pigeons just go with the data.

The solution to the Monty Hall Problem is basically the same as the idea of restricted choice in bridge (eg you have Kxxx opposite A10xxx and when you cash the K an honour drops on your right – finessing the 10 next is

a 2-to-1 favourite) and is what mathematicians call conditional probability. It turns out that we're bad at conditional probability problems generally (as are monkeys actually, so we could just blame our ancestors).

What can we learn from a flock of bird-brains about bridge? Three things pop out for me:

- When you get new information during the bidding or play, use it!
- Don't get stuck on a convention or a system or a whatever – be prepared to change
- The right play fails sometimes – don't get upset, just have another go

Overall, I'm leaning towards being impressed by the pigeons, but mostly because they can't hold 13 cards so I don't have to worry about getting beaten by The Bridge Birds ... yet!

CONGRESS CHAMPION 2014

Congratulations to **Bob Gallus**, who romped home the clear winner to become the Victorian Congress Champion 2014 with 76.9 congress VQPs and 6 congress wins.

The top placegetters:

	Player	Congress VQPs
1	Bob Gallus	76.9
2	Stan Klofa	68.7
3	Andrew Mill	66.3
4	Michael Gurfinkiel	61.6
5	Kim Frazer	55.5
6	Chelliah Arul	53.0
7	Justin Howard	50.0
8	Dee Harley	48.3
9	Anna St Clair	46.9
10	Chandradeep Chakravorty	43.8

FOR STARTERS

Today you hold:

♠ 74 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ 862 ♣ K762

With 12 HCP, this is an opening hand. A 1♥ opening shows at least a 5-card suit, so you correctly open 1♣. Partner responds 1♠:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
			?

What's your rebid here?

You would like to show your hearts, but it would involve a bid of 2♥. That will drive the auction up rather high.

Because of this, you need to have extra strength in your hand for a rebid of 2♥. Such a bid is called a "reverse". A reverse is where opener bids one suit, and then at his second turn bids a new suit *at a level higher than two of his first suit*. Reverses promise a minimum of 16 HCP.

If you can't bid 2♥, then that leaves a rebid of 1NT. This shows a balanced hand of around 12 to 14 HCP. Your diamonds are unappetizing, but the fact is that you need to show the general nature of your hand. Occasionally bidding notrumps with an unstopped suit is necessary: you are allowed to worry about it, but don't let it stop you doing it.

The bidding continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
			?

What now?

Partner's 2NT is an *invitational* bid: he is asking you to bid 3NT if you have a maximum for your 1NT, but pass with a minimum. He should have around 11-12 HCP.

Your 12 HCP represents a minimum hand: you should pass with alacrity, and 2NT becomes the final contract.

The lead is ♣5, and this is what you see:

♠ AQ832
♥ J52
♦ AJ10
♣ 84
N
S
♠ 74
♥ AKQ9
♦ 862
♣ K762

You call low from dummy, and RHO plays ♣J.

A penny for your thoughts ...

In any notrump contract, the first thing to do is count your top tricks. There is one in spades, four in hearts and one in diamonds. That's six. And you could take your ♣K right now at trick one for seven.

Should you take your ♣K?

Well, yes. The opening leader probably has the ♣A, so if you don't win the ♣K now, you might never get it.

So you are up to seven certain tricks – and there are a couple of possibilities for an eighth. The ♠K could be with West, or perhaps you can do something with diamonds.

What's it to be?

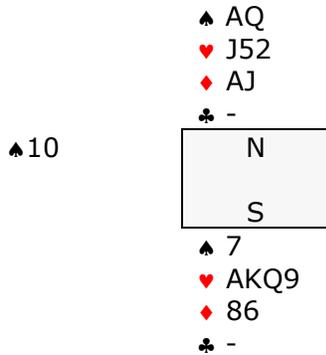
The spade finesse is a 50-50 proposition. What about the diamonds? If West has at least one of the king and queen, you can develop an extra trick. Suppose you lead a diamond to the jack, and it loses to East. Then when you regain the lead, a second diamond will finesse West out of his honour.

Finding West with at least one honour in diamonds is a 75% chance. It's 50-50 where each of the honours is, for both of them to be offside will only happen a quarter of the time. It's the equivalent of having two children: there is a 75% chance that at least one of them will be a boy.

Filled with mathematical righteousness, you play a diamond to the 10. East wins $\heartsuit Q$, returns $\clubsuit 9$, and now West cashes out four club winners (he started with $\clubsuit AQ10xx$).

You discard three spades from dummy, and one spade from your hand. East discards a couple of hearts and a spade.

Now West plays $\heartsuit 10$, and the moment of truth is at hand:



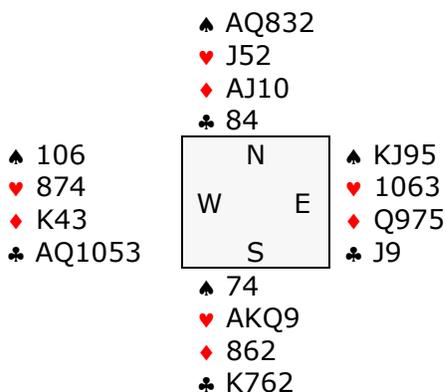
You have lost 5 tricks, and must take the rest.

Many players have been confused over the years by this situation. There is a finesse you need to take for your contract. The spade finesse remains 50-50.

Or you could play West for the remaining diamond honour, the $\heartsuit K$, which was after all, your original plan.

You should rise with the $\heartsuit A$, cash all your hearts, and finesse West for the remaining diamond honour.

Here is the full layout:



The double finesse in diamonds started as a 75% chance. This has now shrunk to 67% (two-thirds), because one of the winning positions, West with both $\heartsuit K$ and $\heartsuit Q$, is no longer possible.

Here's the maths.

There were three possible scenarios in diamonds:

Both K and Q with West	25%
Both K and Q with East	25%
One honour with each of East and West	50%

Scenario 1 has been eliminated: both honours with West. But the other two scenarios remain, and so do their probabilities. One honour with each opponent remains twice as likely, as East having both.

Points to remember:

- A reverse is where opener bids a suit, hears a response from partner, and then bids a new suit higher than 2 of his first suit. Reverses push the auction high, and therefore should only be made with extra values, about 16+ HCP.
- When partner voluntarily raises your bid to a level one below game, it forms an invitation to game: you are being asked whether you are minimum or maximum in the context of your bidding so far. In this example, a contract of 2NT has no score advantage to that of 1NT. Therefore the only reason for partner to bid it is to invite you to bid 3NT.
- The discussion about whether to finesse in spades or diamonds for your contract involves the Principle of Restricted Choice. It is by far the most difficult concept in bridge. Experienced players have been fooled by this since time began, never mind starters. Apparently, pigeons stand a better chance.

You yourself might believe you have spotted a glaring flaw in the reasoning given above.

Trust me – you haven't.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Dendy Park Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Lasocki – G. Feiler
- 2 A. Maluish – A. Mill
- 3 C. Hughes – K. Bechet

Yarra Valley Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Ridgway – A. Robbins
- 2 S. Begg – M. Robertson
- 3 C. Chakravorty – C. Arul

Swiss Teams

- 1 R. Geyer, K. Frazer, A. Czapnik, R. Stewart
- 2 N. Ewart, D. Beckett, K. Bailey, G. Bailey
- 3 S. Murray-White, G. Whiting, P. Schroom, D. Sheather

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 3 (February 7)

- 3 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)

Event 4 (February 22)

- 1 J. Kuiper – J. Sutton (South Gippsland)
- 2 G. Wigginton – M. Zarb (Traralgon)

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS AT THE VBA

Get your entry in for the following red-point state events:

Victorian Open Pairs

Commencing Wednesday 4th March, 7:30 pm. A six week state honour-board matchpoint event: 3 session qualifying followed by a 3 session barometer final.

Victorian Women's IMP Pairs

Commencing Tuesday 17th March, 7:30 pm. A three week qualifying event for the 2015 ANC to be held in Fremantle in July. Finals will be on Saturday and Sunday 18th, 19th April.

Victorian Seniors' IMP Pairs

Commencing Tuesday 24th March, 7:30 pm. A three week qualifying event for the 2015 ANC to be held in Fremantle in July. Finals will be on Saturday and Sunday 17th, 18th May.

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Rye Beach

Saturday 14th March, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 15th March, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Rye Civic Hall
 12 Napier St
 Rye

Contact: Brian Morgan, 0439 845 753

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Donald

Saturday 21st March, 2 pm: Swiss Teams
 Sunday 22nd March, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Donald Golf Club
 Wood Street
 Donald

Contact: Brian Brasier, 0407 971 019

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

The Wodonga Congress has been moved to the weekend of June 20-21. The original edition of this bulletin had it listed for March.

Kings & Queens Easter

Friday 3rd April, 7 pm: Swiss Pairs
 Saturday 4th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 5th April, 10 am: Swiss Teams
 Monday 6th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: 20 Spink St
 Brighton

Contact: Ed Hynes, 9530 6622

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM Bev Fisher

On Monday 17th November the 'Bridge in Schools Program' in Bairnsdale finished off the year with an Inter-schools Team Challenge.

The six school represented were Gippsland Grammar, West Bairnsdale Primary, St Mary's, Eagle Point, Paynesville and Swan Reach. The children were from grades 4 to 6 with some in their second year while others were in their first year of bridge.

The winner was West Bairnsdale Primary with Gippsland Grammar as runners up.

The program was first introduced by the late Frank Power 5 years ago, with two schools participating: now there are six. The program is designed as an extension to the schools' maths program. Both students and teachers have agreed it has been very successful in improving team participation, socialisation, and inferential reasoning.

The program will continue next year and we hope will continue to be as successful as previous years. There is a band of willing presenters and helpers and the schools involved are all keen to continue.

Next year the schools will be competing for 'The Frank Power Memorial Shield'. This is a fitting tribute to a dedicated and passionate man who gave his all to the success of this program.



Students Kristy Halford, Larie Sollis, Piper Stubbs, Rebecca McCarthy and Milli Campbell under the guidance of Carey Lang and Bob Moorhouse.

(Photo courtesy of the Bairnsdale Advertiser)

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Over Their Weak Jump Overcall

Nil vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	2♠	?

That 2♠ bid is usually played as weak: about 6-10 HCP and a decent 6-card suit, just like an opening bid of 2♠. Its primary purpose is to make life miserable for your side, and it often succeeds.

What are your options as responder? Well, bidding a new suit (necessarily at the 3-level) shows quite a bit of strength, given the bidding has been jacked up high: certainly at least 10 HCP, and usually at least a 5-card suit.

Notrump bids are natural and non-forcing, as is a supporting bid in diamonds.

Then there's the negative double: this shows points, at least 8 HCP, as again the bidding is up higher, and specifically interest in any unbid major. In this particular auction, at least 4 hearts is guaranteed. (In an auction where your partner opens a minor, and they intervene in the other minor, things are more difficult, as there are now two unbid majors.)

And when all else fails, and you have only a moderate hand, you can always pass: partner is still there. You certainly don't have to bid with around 6-9 HCP, if nothing fits.

How do you cope with the weak jump overcall with each of these hands?

- (a) ♠ 832 ♥ AQ94 ♦ K876 ♣ 104
- (b) ♠ 832 ♥ 1043 ♦ Q76 ♣ AQ104
- (c) ♠ 8432 ♥ K4 ♦ K76 ♣ KQ104
- (d) ♠ 832 ♥ A4 ♦ KQ876 ♣ A104
- (e) ♠ KJ976 ♥ 1043 ♦ 76 ♣ A104
- (f) ♠ AQ107 ♥ K4 ♦ K76 ♣ Q1042

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS			
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LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	2♠	?

(a) ♠ 832 ♥ AQ94 ♦ K876 ♣ 104

Double. This is the way to show your hearts. The short clubs is not really a problem: if partner bids 3♣, you can convert this to 3♦, a non-forcing bid.

(b) ♠ 832 ♥ 1043 ♦ Q76 ♣ AQ104

Pass. A perfectly good hand (you were about to respond 1NT to partner's opening bid), but nowhere to go after the pre-empt. Let's see what partner bids, if anything. This auction could get sticky later, but nothing good can come of you mis-describing now.

(c) ♠ 8432 ♥ K4 ♦ K76 ♣ KQ104

3♣. Another awkward hand, and this time you are too strong to pass. 3♣ *usually* indicates a 5-card suit, but there is no 'never' in bridge. A negative double is out: you cannot control things if partner bids hearts. If partner rebids 3♦ over 3♣, you can pass.

(d) ♠ 832 ♥ A4 ♦ KQ876 ♣ A104

3♠. You have enough points for a game, but where? 5♦ is a strong possibility, but you have to keep open the possibility of 3NT if partner has a spade stopper. The 3♠ bid gets the job done: it logically shows diamonds (if you'd had some other suit, you would have bid it), and enquires about a spade stopper.

(e) ♠ KJ976 ♥ 1043 ♦ 76 ♣ A104

Pass. You really want to play 2♠ doubled, but a double here is not for penalties. You need to hope that partner can come back with a takeout double: quite likely, as he is short in spades. Then pass with a sadistic smile.

(f) ♠ AQ107 ♥ K4 ♦ K76 ♣ Q1042

3NT. You could pass, hoping that partner doubles: the carnage would be something to behold. But who wants to take years off their own life by waiting for partner to re-open? You simply cannot risk defending 2♠ passed out. So bid what you know you can make.

The Selection Trials for Victoria's Open, Women's and Seniors' teams start soon

The selection trials start soon for the open, women's and seniors' teams to represent Victoria in the 2015 Australian National Championships in Fremantle. As in previous years, the format is a teams trial for the open and, because of the smaller number of entrants, pairs trials for the women's and seniors. A reminder that VQPs will be used to determine the entrants to all the trials, so you need to ensure that you and your partner (and your teammates, in the open) have at least one VQP.

Entries should be emailed to Laurie Kelso. They open on 9 March for the open, 1 April for the women's and 8 April for the seniors. Once entries are received and confirmed as eligible, they will be posted on the VBA website with a tally of the team's / pair's number of VQPs.

A reminder: the final events in which VQPs can be won for the women's and seniors' teams are, respectively, the Women's IMP Pairs Championship (17, 24 and 31 March) and Seniors' IMP Pairs Championship (24 and 31 March and 7 April). For the open team, it is the Open Butler Final, to be held on 7-8 March.

For more details please see the information on the VBA website.

Additional VQPs available in Women's and Seniors' IMP Pairs Championships

In response to comments and feedback on the process to select Victoria's women's and seniors' teams, the Match and Tournament Committee decided to award additional VQPs for lower placed pairs in the Women's and Seniors IMPs Pairs Championships. As previously advised, the pairs finishing 1st will get 16 VQPs, 2nd 12 VQPs, 3rd 8 VQPs and 4th 4VQPs. In addition, 5th place will receive 3 VQPs, 6th 2 VQPs and 7th 1 VQP. Entries to these events are now open -- the Women's IMPs Pairs Championship will be held on March 17, 24 and 31; and the Seniors' IMPs Pairs Championship on March 24 and 31 and April 7.

To find out how many VQPs you or your partner have, please look on the VBA website (<http://www.vba.asn.au/VBADocuments/Masterpoints/vqp.html>).

... David Morgan
Chairman, Match & Tournament Committee

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

These days my bridge is via BridgeBase Online, with a competent partner and random opponents who are not always. I'm not proud of my play to trick 1 on this deal, and I compounded it by unnecessarily risking a ruff at trick 4. However if I had played better I would not have succeeded with what looks like a double guard squeeze without the count.

Dir: West ♠ A106
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q10
 ♦ QJ10753
 ♣ K6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J5432 ♠ Q87
 ♥ K4 ♥ 765
 ♦ 84 ♦ K62
 ♣ QJ52 ♣ A1094

♠ K9
 ♥ AJ9832
 ♦ A9
 ♣ 873

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

The opening lead was ♣Q, which I stupidly covered. If I duck the contract is cold. A bold West would essay ♥4, after which I can be put to a guess if I continue ♣K and East returns a trump. But as it went East won and returned a trump, to ♥K and another trump.

I now finessed diamonds, logically low to ♦9 was better but playing too fast ♦Q then ♦A. Next all the hearts, the last producing the following ending:

♠ A106
 ♥ -
 ♦ J10
 ♣

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q8
 ♥ -
 ♦ K
 ♣ 109

♠ K9
 ♥ 8
 ♦ -
 ♣ 87

On ♥8 West is forced down to one club, dummy's ♦10 was easy, and East had to choose between reducing to one club or baring ♠Q. He chose the latter and ♠K dropped ♠Q allowing a finesse for the contract. If the former, South exits a club to establish ♣8.

Notice that West can prevail by discarding ♣J.

Restricted Pairs at the ANC

In last month's Bulletin I said that only two pairs per state were able to enter this new event. That's wrong: any restricted pair can enter the event but only two from each state are receiving the ABF's \$2000 / pair plus entry fees subsidy. If you want a chance to be one of those pairs then enter your club's heats of the Simultaneous Pairs and then compete in the final at the VBA on Saturday 9 May. The heats at the VBA are being held on 16, 23 and 30 March (Monday evenings). If you can't play at the VBA find out when your club is holding its heats.

David Morgan
 Chair
 Match and Tournament Committee

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: South ♠ AK5
 Vul: N/S ♥ K4
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ A8762

	N	
	S	

♠ 9
 ♥ AQJ1097
 ♦ 943
 ♣ 543

West	North	East	South
Pass	6♥	All pass	2♥

Lead ♠6. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

♠ J8764 ♥ 852 ♦ J82 ♣ KJ	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AK5 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ5 ♣ A8762 ♠ Q1032 ♥ 63 ♦ K1076 ♣ Q109	♠ 9 ♥ AQJ1097 ♦ 943 ♣ 543
N						
W E						
S						

The 12 tricks you are planning to take are 2 spades, 6 hearts, 1 diamond and 3 clubs. You certainly need to set up the clubs, so if all goes well, you won't need the diamond finesse. Two early club losers can be avoided by using a spade for a club discard in hand.

The threat is in diamonds. If you lose a club trick to West and he then plays a diamond, you will have to finesse. You cannot afford to play the ace, because that is your entry to the established clubs.

To avoid this risk, *play low from dummy at trick 1*, allowing East to win. Win the (say) spade return, and cash your remaining spade, discarding your two little clubs. Now ace of clubs and a club ruff, over to the ♥K, ruff another club, and if the suit divides, smile and claim.

If clubs break 4-1, you will need some luck elsewhere: spades 3-2 and the diamond finesse. You will still be able to establish the clubs for one diamond discard.

A TRICKY SUIT COMBINATION

Suppose you are playing a slam, and this is the trump suit:

K2
□
A108743

You can afford to lose one trump trick but not two. How do you play the suit?

Decide, and then read on.

There will be no problems if the suit divides 3-2. The trick is to handle as many 4-1 splits as possible.

Let's see: if one defender has QJ9x, you are doomed. Even if it is East, he can split his honours when a low card is led from dummy, and retain his two tricks. And if West has Q9xx, or J9xx, there is no winning option.

But you can handle the rest by making a most unintuitive play: leading the **10** from your hand. If LHO has singleton queen, jack or nine, he will play it: you then win the king in dummy, and finesse East on the way back. The big payoff comes if East has the singleton 9. If West plays low on your 10, play low from dummy, and enjoy seeing the 9 appear on your right. West can do no better by covering your 10.

The odds of East having started with a singleton 9? Just under 3%.

1 Day Bridge Basics Crash Course



Do your friends play?
Have you always
wanted to learn?
Are you up for a new
challenge?
Do you want a day of
fun?

Do you want to meet new people?
Did you learn years ago but haven't played since?

Come along to the Victorian Bridge Association's 1 Day Bridge Crash Course. During this course you will have a fun day out, learn the basics of the world's greatest card game and meet new people.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Cost: \$40, includes lunch, course notes and booklet, and a voucher to a supervised play session (the next step)

For more information please call the VBA on 9530 9006 or email clachman@vba.asn.au.

BLACK MAGIC
Bill Jacobs

This awkward 3NT contract arose in a Congress Swiss Teams event.

Dir: South ♠ K
 Vul: Nil ♥ J105
 ♦ KJ862
 ♣ Q64

N
S

♠ AJ5
 ♥ A862
 ♦ 1093
 ♣ AK52

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

The lead is ♠6, and dummy's king wins.

Your best bet is clearly to find West with ♦Q, in which case it can be finessed.

But if you finesse and East wins ♦Q, a spade return might make life distinctly uncomfortable.

Is there any Black Magic you can conjure up?

Here is the full layout:

	♠ K ♥ J105 ♦ KJ862 ♣ Q642				
♠ Q10864 ♥ Q43 ♦ A74 ♣ J9	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9732 ♥ K97 ♦ Q5 ♣ 10873
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ AJ5 ♥ A862 ♦ 1093 ♣ AK5				

Both the diamond and spade queens were poorly placed, but the resourceful declarer wrapped up two overtricks, without the defenders doing anything wrong.

South realized that if the ♦Q was onside, it didn't need to be finessed. He would happily lose the first round of diamonds to West's queen, as that would leave the spades doubly-protected.

So at trick 2, he led a small diamond off the dummy! One can hardly blame East for playing low: it would have been ludicrous for him to go in with the queen, when it was so likely that declarer was about to win ♦A and then finesse the diamonds back to him.

West won the diamond ace and played a second spade. Voila – 11 tricks. It would have made no difference if West had ducked the diamond: South, knowing who held the queen, would have played to the king next.



Inside the Expert's Mind



Join Pete Hollands as he explains his thought processes live on the internet every week

Monday 4.00 - 5.00 (Supervised)
 Tuesday 3.00 - 6.00
 Thursday 11.00-12.00
 (Lesson on a selected topic)

To watch these **free** live sessions:
<http://www.twitch.tv/sliynk>
 or
www.bridgestream.weebly.com

Anyone can watch.
 Register for a twitch account if you wish to chat to Pete or ask questions.

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS

Unauthorized Information

Law 16B is perhaps the most important and yet misunderstood law in the book. Let's look at an example of its implementation.

Dir: North ♠ 3
 Vul: nil ♥ AJ6
 ♦ AQ952
 ♣ 9873

N
S

♠ KJ976
 ♥ 1043
 ♦ 76
 ♣ A104

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

2♠ doubled got badly mangled: down 3 for an excellent score to N/S.

But there was a problem. South, who hadn't read this month's bulletin and therefore wasn't prepared for this situation, thought for quite some time before passing over the 2♠ bid.

After the hand was played, E/W called the director. They felt that South's hesitation clearly indicated values of some sort, and helped North make a re-opening double on a very minimum opening hand.

North, an experienced club player, was indignant. "I was always doubling with that hand, given the spade shortage. Partner's hesitation didn't affect my decision at all!"

The director agreed with North that the hesitation had no effect on his bidding, and told North that, whilst apologetically adjusting the score back to 2♠, passed out.

Why did the director accept that the hesitation was irrelevant to the result, but then adjusted the score anyway? Enter Law 16B.

Law 16B states that there must be three conditions that apply for an adjusted score to be awarded in the light of unauthorized information (UI).

First the director must be convinced that there was UI of some form, whether it be hesitation, gesture, mis-explanation, alert or failure to alert, or question about the bidding.

Second, the actual winning decision taken must have been suggested by the UI.

And third, there must have been a logical alternative bid that would not have been successful.

So let's apply Law 16B to our case study.

Was there a hesitation? Everyone at the table agreed there was. (Sometimes the hesitating side denies there was a break in tempo. The director resolves this by looking at the player's hand to see if a hesitation was plausible: he decides close cases by ruling that a hesitation did occur.)

Did the hesitation suggest the double? Yes indeed: if South had some thought of taking action, it's in North's interests to keep the bidding alive.

Was there a logical alternative for North, other than his re-opening double? The only alternative action for North was to pass, letting East play 2♠ undoubled. Given that North had opened with just 11 HCP, the director decided that passing 2♠ out was entirely logical. (But had North held another ace, 15 HCP, this third condition would not have been met: it would not have been logical for North to pass. And so the actual table result would stand.)

All three requirements for adjustment were met and the director duly adjusted the score.

It's what Law 16B *doesn't* say that is crucial. It makes no reference to North's intentions. The fact that North was intending to double all along, irrespective of his partner's hesitation, is completely irrelevant in the eyes of the law.

The director can honestly say to North: "I believe you. You were always intending to double 2♠. But partner's hesitation limited what result your side could achieve from this board."

Keep that in mind if you are ever on the wrong end of Law 16B.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Warren Cousins Waverley
 Susan Harrison Waverley

National

Robyn Hewson Eastern
 Edith Underwood Ovens & Murray

***National**

Richard Moss South Gippsland

****National**

Heather Scott Geelong

Bronze Life

Henry Josling Moonee Valley
 Kay Speed Waverley

Silver Life

Noel Grigg Whittlesea
 John Hare VBA

Gold Life

Piyush Jain Geelong
 Jan Jay Waverley

Silver Grand

Justin Howard Alphington
 Stephen Weisz VBA

**Teacher Training Program
 Victorian Bridge Association
 21, 22 March 2015**



Australian Bridge Federation Inc.



EDUCATION PROGRAM – BRIDGE TEACHERS

Saturday 21 March 2015 VBA

When	Topic
10.00 – 1.00	Teaching Methodology Generating STEAM – a focus on five essentials for professionally delivered bridge lessons
1.00 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 3.00	Practical Teaching Tools (1) Up-to-date methods that assure successful lessons for players from beginners to advanced
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon tea
3.15 – 4.00	Practical Teaching Tools (2)

Sunday 22 March 2015

When	Topic
10.00 – 12.00	Demo Workshop: Improve Your Declarer Play: End Plays
12.00 – 1.00	Discussion Group with Teachers

If you are a bridge teacher, or would like to become one, attend this **free** workshop, sponsored by ABF& VBA

You're welcome to do the course more than once. The workshop will follow a modern approach to teaching, both in theory and in practice.

You will receive a Teacher Training Certificate if you attend all 9 hours of the course.

NB: BYO Lunch. Coffee etc. will be provided.

Where: VBA
 Poath Rd, Murrumbeena
 03 95309006

To Register:
 Cathie Lachman:
 clachman@vba.asn.au

Vu-graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan

"They make a game. It wasn't a good game but still they won't give it back on that account."

"Somebody said down one is good bridge. Making is perhaps better."

"Declarer led the ace of trumps and it held. So now he must reconsider his options."



Victor Champion Cup 2015

Festival of bridge



PRESENTED BY THE

VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION LTD

ABN: 51 004 595 993

and the

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC

ABN: 70 053 651 666

Venue: Bayview Eden
6 Queens Road, South Melbourne Victoria

4TH JUNE – 8TH JUNE 2015

Chief Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso
Chief Scorer: Matthew McManus

Tournament Organisers: Neil Ewart & Kim Frazer
Email: vcc@abf.com.au Mobile: 0418 800940 or 0409 416128
Website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc

AN ABF GOLD POINT AND PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS EVENT