



# “Trumping In”

## Waverley Bridge Club Newsletter



May 2011

ABN 86 643 699 219

### FABULOUS FRIDAYS

Are you tired of looking forward, (slightly jaded), every three months, to the ABF Masterpoint site's update of your masterpoints? It might just be the most exciting thing you can do all year.

Do you want to add a little zing to your bridge?

WBC is introducing 'Fabulous Fridays'!

Friday evenings are taking on a whole new persona. Come along and play, either with your normal partner, or with a variety of partners, and be in the running for great prizes.

If you play at least 3 Friday evenings during any calendar month, your three best scores will be averaged and two sets of prizes will be awarded.

1. The two players with the highest average score; and,
2. The two players with a score closest to a selected percentage, chosen on the final Friday of the month before play starts. This score will be in the range 46– 52%.

Table fees for Fabulous Fridays will be \$9.00 for members and \$11 for non-members. All extra monies collected will be returned as prize money every month. The competition will run every Friday night, including the two monthly Nationwide Pairs evenings nights.

The Committee has agreed to a guaranteed prize pool of at least \$300 for an introductory

period, to be split evenly between the four winning players.

This is the chance for the 'average' punter, as well as the 'expert', to share in considerable prizes.

We want to make the night as enjoyable as possible, and will make available a glass of good wine or a beer for a most moderate charge. Simple snacks will also be provided.

Tell your friends about this competition – the more players we have, the bigger the pot will become. **The event will start on Friday May 6.**

### VALE FRED ALTSTOCK AND TERRY GRIFFIN

We are sad to report the death of one of our favourite members, Fred Altstock, who died on April 20 after a long illness. Fred – a good player, good member and good friend – will be sadly missed by all. More than one of us benefited from his ready charm and tempting tin of goodies.

The place just won't be the same without you Fred.

Another member many of you may remember, though of recent times ill health has prevented him from coming to the Club, is Terry Griffin. Terry was a true gentleman, always good company and a fair opponent.

We send our condolences to Fred and Terry's families, and are sad to lose these two valuable club members, and friends.

## RANK PROMOTION CONGRATULATIONS

Graduate Master	David Bowen Judy Bowen Patricia Brown Angela Burns Elizabeth Chanter Ruth Edmonds Joy Featherby Melva Gale Bruce Kenneday Margaret Kruse Alison Main Marcia Main Joan Muller Monica Murphy Paul Penman Michael Pogson Valerie Turner Sidney Vaughan
Club Master	Tony Allan Douglas Collins John Harrison Barbara Heffernan Pamela McDonald Leonie O'Hanlon Anne Roberts Jean Warna
Local Master	Ian Bell Helen Edwards Mavis Hoy Damien Willcox
*Local Master	Penny Blakey Richard Cheshire Dolores Hogan
**Local Master	Margaret Arnold-Levy David Isaacs Elizabeth Kettle Elaine Moir Jean Moores Marna Sandford Betty Wynne
Regional Master	John Finemore Frances Minson
*Regional Master	Elaine Chapman Beverley Verity
National Master	Mary Adams

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts. (Alfred Sheinwold)

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

### Kantar: Topics in Declarer Play

This new book addresses a this popular topic using a well-known approach. While not a comprehensive treatment of declarer play at bridge this book deals with specific topics exhaustively and will be invaluable to the improving player: finesses (when and how to take them and equally importantly when to avoid taking them) endplays, eliminations issues with entries, suit establishment and counting.

### Bergen: Slam Bidding made Easier

This is an excellent book, it will help not only your slam bidding, but game bidding as well. The key to slam bidding is more accurate hand evaluation. The techniques taught here will make you a better bidder all over.

### Browne: Uncontested Auctions

This book covers important tools such as Roman Keycard, control bidding, the Jacoby 2NT, splinters, checkback, weak jump shifts, fourth suit forcing, and transfers to minors. There are also short card play tips on signals, counting losers, lead-directing doubles, odds, avoidance plays and endplays. Practice hands are included.

### Grant: Commonly Used Conventions

Provides classroom text-like treatment of some of the more basic bridge bidding conventions. Covers Stayman, Jacoby transfers, Jacoby 2NT, Drury and related conventions. Gives more modern treatments to opening bidding, responses, rebids and preemptive bids.

### Grant: More commonly Used Conventions

This book takes over where "Commonly Used Conventions" leaves off. It covers negative and other types of conventional doubles, overcalls - including Unusual NT and Michaels, slam bidding - including Blackwood and Gerber Roman Key

Card Blackwood and two-over-one game force. Includes an excellent chapter on defensive leads and signals.

Klinger: Defences and Countermeasures

A book covering the most common conventions the bridge player is likely to encounter. It explains when each convention is used, what its effects are and how to combat it. Even if players actively use only some of them, they should know about them and how to combat their effects.

Klinger: Deadly Defence Covers every important aspect in bridge to make good bridge players into excellent defenders. It deals with opening leads (how to convey maximum information), defensive play when playing second hand, third hand and also when you are first to play to a trick, how to use signals more effectively and how to think on defence like an expert.

Truscott: Bid Better, Play Better This is a new, updated edition of one of the greatest bridge books of all time. Teaches you how to think like a bridge player. Much of the material is aimed toward advanced beginners and intermediates, but even new players will benefit from her clear approach and practical advice.

Vancelette: The Elusive Masterpoint

This is Carl Vancelette's tales of his life in bridge, and his attempts to achieve competence, achieve Life Mastership, and simply stop making the same errors over and over. He'll make you laugh. (He may make you cry.) He'll teach you some fundamental lessons in a painless way.

Winkler: Bridge at The Enigma Club

A simple game of bridge can turn into so much more. "Bridge at the Enigma Club" is an intriguing delve into the world of bridge with exciting twists and turns. With a spattering of ideas and tips on the game as well as some delving into the world of cryptography, "Bridge at the Enigma Club" is a fascinating read that blends many concepts.

Mackinnon: Bridge, Probability and Information

Bridge, unlike chess, is a game of incomplete information. We bid with thirteen cards in view and play each deal seeing only twenty-six. We must deduce the positions of the rest from the auction and from the cards played. Some knowledge of the laws of probability is a critical weapon for any successful player. Using a semi-fictional narrative approach, Bridge, Probability and Information develops the ideas of probability and information theory, applying them to bridge.

Pottage and Smith: Bridge Behind Bars

This lively and unusual title tells of a prisoner's expert bridge-playing ability that earns him

respect among his fellow prisoners. While this is a novel about bridge, it is of obvious interest to any bridge enthusiast.

Halls: How the Experts Win At Bridge

This is a great intermediate level book for people wanting to take their game to the next level. It has a great study guide at the back that should really help you as well. Like all good bridge books this one focuses on the logic behind decisions. It shows you how experts think about the game and how to recognize and make strategic decisions.

Burn: How to Survive Your First Bridge Tournament.

The aim of this book by David Burn is to give confidence by describing what a novice player is likely to experience by following the progress of a novice pair through their first tournament. Each triumph and disaster is graphically described, from the humiliation of chronic partnership disagreements to the exhilaration of an unexpected win.

Pomerantz; , The Devil's Tickets

Bridge and murder, two of mankind's most engrossing pursuits—in The Devil's Tickets Gary Pomerantz intermingles both to create a crackling portrait of a vibrant past age and a singular moment when a bullet trumped all.

Reese: Play Bridge With Reese

Pick up a bridge hand with the late, great Terrence Reese, and follow his thoughts and choices through the bidding. When the bidding is over, the opponents lead, dummy comes down and you follow his thinking through the play of the hand as he develops a plan and builds up a picture of the hidden hands card by card.

Vine: North of the Master Solvers Club

**"CO-WINNER - 2009 - International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year**

Frank Vine (1927-1987) had an acid wit along with a talent for putting pen to paper. A resident of Hamilton Ontario and a lawyer by profession he was also an expert bridge player who won the North American Men's Pairs (arguably in those days the strongest pairs event of the year) in 1969.

His trenchant commentaries on the game often thinly disguised as fiction appeared regularly in The Bridge World and other magazines in the 1970s and 1980s.

A small collection of his work was published previously but has long been out of print. Readers who are familiar with Vine's writings will be delighted to see them once more available this time in a much more comprehensive collection.

Those who haven't discovered Frank Vine's work before are in for a rare treat."

### Pete Holland has also written a review.

This collection of Frank Vines' writings is divided into three main sections - Humour, Parody and his thoughts on different aspects of bridge.

Great easy read of short stories for intermediate to advanced players.

The humour section creates a fictional character called Cornelius Coldbottom and these articles are really great. His thoughts on different parts of bridge give good insight into the goings on in the game, and his parody of so called experts largely from the Bridge World Magazine are fantastic.

The stories include how someone removes the principle of restricted choice, it also gives hilarious rules on how to win in the "challenge the champs", and the title of the book comes from one of the short stories inside where in the Bridge world there is a section called the Master Solvers Club, and he pretends to be the partner of the master solvers i.e. North and shows some flaws in the so called master solvers.

Great book well worth a read.

### THE SCISSORS COUP

Last month we described the Alcatraz Coup, a totally illegal way to find a missing Queen. To restore your faith in our intrinsic honesty, we had better describe a coup that is legally sweet-smelling, elegant, and successfully rescues a perilous contract.

The Scissors coup is a play, especially by declarer, planned to disrupt the communications of opponents to prevent a ruff which would defeat the contract and is normally brought about by a loser-on-loser play.

Have a look at the following hand:

♠A10		
♥J973		
♦J7		
♣KQ1076		
♠8753	♠QJ42	
♥65	♥A8	
♦Q62	♦AK10853	
♣9852	♣3	
	♠K96	
	♥KQ1042	
	♦94	
	♣AJ4	

East opens the auction 1♦ and South wins the contract with 4♥. West leads the ♦2, won by East, who returns the ♣3.

South has 3 losers – 2 Diamonds and 1 Heart.

South should realize that East's return is a singleton, and when he takes the Heart Ace, he will return a low Diamond to West's Queen, ruff West's Club return and defeat the contract.

The Scissors Coup will cut the lines of communication between West and East. South takes the Club Ace, leads a low Spade to the Ace, low to the King, and then leads the Spade 9. Instead of ruffing this card, he throws the second Diamond from dummy – swapping a Diamond loser for a Spade loser. Now if East tries to lead a Diamond to West, Dummy is able to ruff.

(Note for newer players: The lead of the ♦2 is very telling for East. The Standard lead from Q62 is the 2. If West had Q2, he would have led the Queen. The only other holding West can have is the singleton ♦2. In which case he could ruff the second lead of the suit.)

Another example.

	♠K975	
	♥32	
	♦76	
	♣K10743	
♠1083		♠642
♥84		♥AQ109765
♦AJ		♦2
♣AJ9652		♣Q8
	♠AQJ	
	♥KJ	
	♦KQ10987543	
	♣ - - -	

East opened 3♥ and South overcalled 5♦, ending the auction. The lead is the ♥8.

Though it appears that there are only two losers - ♥Ace and ♦Ace - if East plays the ♥Queen instead of the Ace at trick one, he can get in later with the ♥A after West takes the Trump Ace and give West a trump promotion by returning a Heart. West would then later take at trick with the ♦J, defeating the contract.

How sweet the solution is!

After winning the ♥King, cross to the dummy with the Spade King and *lead the Club King, discarding the Heart Jack.*

Declarer now has no Hearts left and can ruff the second round. The loser-on-loser play has broken the line of communication for defenders.

Though the defence of playing the Queen on the opening lead may seem to be difficult, it is

certainly not outside the realm of play for a skilled defender.

And another one:

	♠763	Both vul.
	♥Q9652	
	♦KQ	
	♣653	
♠102		♠KQJ985
♥KJ104		♥873
♦9743		♦J1065
♣A104		♣ - - -
	♠A4	
	♥A	
	♦A82	
	♣KQJ9872	

East opens a frisky 3♠ and South bids 5♣ which West doubles, ending the auction.

West leads the ♠10 – low, King, Ace. South should guard against the possibility of an enemy trump promotion if he leads the Club King, won by West, who would lead his second Spade. A Spade return from East would cause difficulties for South.

Such a neat solution.

South plays his Heart Ace, then a low Diamond to the King. Now that he is in dummy, he leads the Heart Queen, discarding the remaining Spade from his hand. Communications cut! Now if West leads his last spade, South can ruff, draw the remaining two trumps and claim his doubled contract. He has swapped his Spade loser for a Heart loser – a classic loser-on-loser play - ensuring his contract.

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Stocks of the Entertainment Book are now available. WBC keeps \$13 of the \$65 cost of each book, and the purchaser gets the bargain of the century.

Hundreds of restaurants and eateries – from Age Good Food Guide ‘hatted’ to Taco Bill’s to Krispy Crème to Hudson’s Coffee.

AFL seats, the MTC, Ten pin bowling, Puffing Billy, Imax, Drive-Ins, dancing lessons, Falls Creek ski lift tickets, car washes and tennis lessons. Go Karts and the Eureka Skydeck.

Speak to Mary or Laura if you would like one – either for yourself or as a gift.

Tell your kids you would like one for Mother’s Day.

## MENTORING PROGRAM

Calling all newer players who would like to benefit from an occasional, or regular, game with a strong player.

WBC is arranging a mentoring program whereby a newer player can enjoy a session – not a lesson, but some good steady play, and maybe have a bit of a chat afterwards.

We would prefer Wednesday morning to be the mentoring session, but will hopefully be able to arrange mentors for other sessions as well.

Please speak to Mary if you would like to sign up to be mentored.

We hope to be able to start this program within the next couple of weeks.

## COMING SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

<b>Negative Doubles</b>	May 14 and 21
<b>Reverses</b>	June 11 and 18
<b>Preemptive Bidding</b>	July 9 and 16
<b>Bidding Strong Hands</b>	July 30 and August 13

All workshops start at 9.30 am. Thorough notes, bidding practice, quizzes and hand play are included in all sessions.

Cost per session is \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members. We very much welcome visitors.

Gain a solid grounding in these important aspects of bidding, or refurbish your understandings – there are just too many old wives tales around!!

## ABF CARDS

ABF cards for the 2011 – 2012 period have been delivered and are now available at the sign-in table. Please take a moment to pick yours up. Thanks.

## BEGINNERS’ LESSONS

Our next course is coming up quickly – speak to your friends and relatives about joining in.

The eight week course starts on: Tuesday June 7 – 1.45 pm; and each lesson is repeated the following evening, starting on Wednesday June 8 – 7.30 pm.

The cost of the course will be \$90 and includes a class book and one free supervised session to be taken at a time of your choice following the completion of the lesson course.

## STAFF TRAINING

You will be pleased to hear that Martin and Mary are now legally allowed to cook a sausage, sell you a beer, and theoretically have the skills to resuscitate you if the excess of food and fun causes you to collapse and stop breathing. (I sincerely hope we never have to put it to the test!!)

## BIDDING BOXES

WBC will shortly be catching up with a large proportion of Australian Bridge Clubs and introducing Bidding Boxes for all tables. Special metal bidding card holders have been ordered – thanks to Martin for all his liaison and work with the manufacturer. Inserts have also been ordered, and we should have the boxes installed by the end of the financial year.

Though you may not be familiar with Bidding Boxes just yet, we are sure that, once you are used to them, you will like them. One huge benefit is that we shall no longer be using such a huge amount of paper – a terrible waste.

When we are about to start using them, we will be having one or two training sessions, and you can always ask for help.

## UNI STUDENTS BRIDGE CRASH COURSE

Line up the kids (up to roughly 35!!) for Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> – 12.00 to 4.30 pm. The Youth group are planning a bash that will get the young'uns playing bridge and having a sausage sizzle and a couple of beers (if they are 18 or over for the beers). All this for only \$10.00. No-one under 16 please, this time. Please book with Laura 0411 694 248, or through the VBA website. If you don't book, you won't get the sausage sizzle or the beers.

Don't forget the regular Youth night every Tuesday evening 7.30 till 10.00. Laura and the Youth group welcome children ++ of all ages, and you can be sure they will have a good time.

## WHAT WILL YOU BID?

The auction has proceeded:

(1♦) : X : (Pass) : ??

It is your bid. What will you do with the following hands?

1. ♠K985 ♥QJ72 ♦9864 ♣A	2. ♠J7 ♥86 ♦A1072 ♣QJ852	3. ♠8742 ♥KQ7 ♦J875 ♣QJ
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4. ♠QJ876 ♥954 ♦A1073 ♣A	5. ♠J2 ♥76 ♦AQ ♣K1098732	6. ♠J86 ♥543 ♦Q9652 ♣J4
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7. ♠96 ♥KQ964 ♦876 ♣A106	8. ♠J96 ♥85 ♦10852 ♣Q763	9. ♠K4 ♥Q7 ♦Q109764 ♣J85
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- 2♦ The cue bid says to partner: we have game on, but I don't know which major suit to bid. Please tell me which is your stronger major.

If the opening bid is a major, e.g.  
(1♥) : X : (Pass) : 2♥

Then the cue bid would be either:

- Preparatory to setting Spades as trumps and inviting slam; or,
- Denying 4 Spades, invitational with length in both minors.
- 1NT. Don't be fooled by the good Club suit. The interesting bit of your hand is the Diamond Ace Ten xx. This bid always Shows 6 – 9 HCP. 1NT is not a bid you make out of desperation.
- 2♠. You might not have very good Spades, but you do have 9 HCP, such as they are. Partner had better have what he promised!
- 4♠. What a nice hand. Good points, good fit.
- 3NT. Nothing else will do. Two Diamond stoppers and all those lovely Clubs. Of course, if the long suit was a major, you would bid game in the major.
- 2♣. Yuck. This is not the time to bid 1NT to show your Diamond stopper! This is one of those times when you are glad that partner doesn't double every time she has 12 HCP, irrespective of shape!
- 3♥. Invitational. (Just to make it absolutely clear, when partner doubles, he *promises* at least 3 cards in all unbid suits; or, a very

strong hand.)

Partner will NOT have doubled with:

♠AJ86  
♥J7  
♦QJ5  
♣KQ32

This holding, after an opposing 1♦ opening bid, is a clear-cut pass.

8. 1♠ It surely is easier to make 7 tricks in Spades, than 8 in Clubs.

9. Pass You are unlikely to make game with your modest values, unless partner is very strong. 1♦X rates to be your best spot.

### HOW DO WE GET TO SHOW FAIR VALUES AS OVERCALLER IF WE CAN'T DOUBLE?

Look at the sample hand in the answer to Hand 7 above. After a 1♦ opening by RHO, this hand must pass. Those who choose to double (I had to show you my points partner!) will get into trouble when partner bids Hearts.

The double, being a forcing call, drags a bid out of a partner who could have close to a Yarborough. In order to be able to hold your head up around partner after the game, it is a jolly fine idea to be able to offer partner a ruffing value in your hand as well as your 14 HCP. Just having 14 HCP opposite a 4 count is not going to be enough to win 8 tricks 'specially if you have no fit.

So you have to pass.

If the auction proceeds:

(1♦) : Pass : (1/2 level bid) : - - -

Then you are very well out of it. Opener, you and responder all have points, which probably leaves nothing much for your partner. There is still the possibility that you can get in later if the auction proceeds:

(1♦) : Pass : (1♥) : Pass  
(2♥) : ??

Now, you could make a spirited double, showing 4 Spades and 4 Clubs.

If, on the other hand, the auction proceeds:

(1♦) : Pass : (Pass) : - - -

Now, because responder has fewer than 6 HCP, your partner is more likely to have a few points.

Say he has:

♠KJ752  
♥Q109  
♦984  
♣J8

He will count his 7 HCP, look at the bidding, and say – where are all the HCP?? There are 40 in the pack, I have 7, responder has less than 6, opener hasn't made a forcing opening bid. Those points have to be somewhere – so they *must* be in my partner's hand, and partner had to pass because he had no sensible bid to make.

He now makes a balancing, or, reopening, bid of 1♠, using the points he *knows* his partner must have to justify his bid.

He would do the same with:

♠KQ108  
♥K10  
♦875  
♣J986

With:

♠K1097  
♥Q109  
♦87  
♣KJ86

He would double. A balancing double does not promise opening strength.

A minimum action by balancer must be treated with respect by partner. It is very unwise to go overboard with enthusiasm to show opening strength. *Remember partner might very well be bidding on your strength already.*

Give a single raise with opening strength. Partner will be ready to keep on bidding with a fair hand.

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