



South African Trials

Bulletin: Number 5
Editor: Deirdre Ingersent

IT'S A LOT OF BRIDGE!

Three matches completed in the Final Round Robin, 16 board matches now, and still four to go. Another long day tomorrow Thursday (3 matches X 16 boards = 48 boards) and then last match on Friday morning. The same three pairs are at the top in the Open but they have shuffled around and current leaders are Craig Gower and Alon Apteker. Same story in the Women's- different leaders now Diana Balkin and Sharon Izerel.

I would like to mention at this point that a lot of organisation goes into an event like this which the average Club bridge player probably can't even begin to imagine. Steve Bunker's organisation has been excellent but I must also mention Rob Stephens for setting up The Links venue so well and Devan Chetty for assisting with computer stuff! Thank You to all my monitors who have given of their time so freely to help. At The Links Bernard Donde, Devan Chetty, Duncan Craggs, Tor Meyer, Sheila Francis, Helen Kruger, Susan Kacev, Norman Gelbart and myself. Devan even thanked me for the opportunity of seeing how these trials worked and was pleased to meet so many top players!

As for the Newsletter, thanks to Dedre for sorting out the layout and Bernard for all the hands he has analysed for our readers so well. His descriptions of the bidding and play out have been most informative.

The best tip I heard today which will benefit average Club players such as myself. "I knew that player held the Q hearts as she had not yet shown up with enough points for her bid" Do we stop to think about counting points in the various hands like this? I fear for many of us no we don't.

Good Luck to all pairs for tomorrow!

***Submitted by
Deirdre Ingersent***

CONCENTRATION - 4 DIFFERENT STYLES!



James Grant (and quite a few players adopt this pose!)



Nicky Bateman and Trish Crosse both studying the screen most intently



Rob Stephens wearing his calm, non-flustered look



Neville Eber, the most laid back of all. Feet on the table, i - pad on his lap!

Open results after 3 rounds

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	C/O	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
			VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower	1	113.40	75.25	9	12.55	10	12.80	10	12.80
Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens	2	111.88	80.81	-1	9.69	-10	7.20	16	14.18
Neville Eber & Hennie Fick	3	111.26	75.62	4	11.20	-8	7.71	30	16.73
Andrew Cruise & Saul Burman	4	101.55	60.47	4	11.20	8	12.29	36	17.59
Imtiaz Kaprey & Paul Reynolds	5	78.79	58.88	-4	8.80	-26	3.91	-10	7.20
Brian Pincus & Diniar Minwalla	6	75.89	46.57	1	10.31	24	15.74	-30	3.27
James Grant & Larry Chemaly	7	69.59	38.88	-4	8.80	26	16.09	-16	5.82
Duncan Keet & Jude Apteker	8	67.65	53.53	-9	7.45	-24	4.26	-36	2.41

Women's results after 3 rounds

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	C/O	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
			VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel	1	111.34	73.32	8	12.29	15	13.97	6	11.76
Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom	2	102.33	72.32	-3	9.09	40	18.09	-33	2.83
Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon	3	97.36	62.48	-8	7.71	0	10.00	33	17.17
Sharon Lang & Lotte Sorensen	4	95.53	60.46	3	10.91	25	15.92	-6	8.24
Peta Balderson & Jennifer Gautschi	5	87.58	64.63	10	12.80	-40	1.91	-6	8.24
Carol Grunder & Jill Rabie	6	85.78	59.50	-10	7.20	-25	4.08	20	15.00
Jennifer Foaden & Renee Kenny	7	78.39	46.63	0	10.00	0	10.00	6	11.76
Bev Hewitt & Trish Crosse	8	73.70	52.67	0	10.00	-15	6.03	-20	5.00

Thursdays Schedule in the Open and Women's

Thu 18-Apr 10:00	4	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig
		2	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude
		3	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
		4	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
Thu 18-Apr 12:00	5	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul
		2	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
		3	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
		4	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig
Thu 18-Apr 15:30	6	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul
		2	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig
		3	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude
		4	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul
Thu 18-Apr 10:00	4	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
		2	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
		3	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
		4	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
Thu 18-Apr 12:00	5	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish
		2	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
		3	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
		4	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
Thu 18-Apr 15:30	6	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee
		2	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
		3	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
		4	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish

MATCH REPORT OPEN

Youth versus Aged

Robert Stephens (Drowzee) and Noah Apteker (NoahApteke) are by far the youngest competitors in the field. They led the qualifying rounds and in the second match today they were pitted against Noah's father, Alon, and Craig Gower who are both experienced world class players. I see this as a battle between Youth (Robert and Noah) and Aged (Alon and Craig).

D		N	alonap	W	N	E	S
1		♠	AJ5		1♣	1NT	P
		♥	Q5	3♦	P	4♥	P
		♦	Q64	P	P		
		♣	QJ1073				
W	drowzee	E	NoahApteke				
♠	97432	♠	K10				
♥	K9642	♥	AJ3				
♦	K5	♦	A1073				
♣	4	♣	A986				
		S	craigy52				
		♠	Q86				
		♥	1087				
		♦	J982				
		♣	K52				
				4♥ E	NS: 0 EW: 0		


I previously discussed bidding 3♦ over 1NT to show 5-5 in majors and invitational plus values. Here this convention worked well when Noah had an easy 4♥ bid. 4♥ made 12 tricks (he might have made a super accept with this hand by bidding 4♣ but opponents had opened the bidding making slam unlikely as he only had 3 trumps). Bidding and making game was worth 6.33imps. First blood to Youth.

Andrew Cruise and Saul Berman forced to game with the West hand which seems like a bit of an overbid to me.

In the Women's, none of the E/W pairs were able to bid this reasonable game.

#95859 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 2					3/8	0.24	10.33	
1	2024-04-17 12:11	imtiaz1	horace1	goldbar larryc777	4♠E-1	50	9.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 12:06	bkpsc	diniar	Dunx judeap	2♥W+3	-200	2.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 12:07	eebs	Hcbfick	cruisey KingZlot	4♥W+1	-450	-5.33	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 12:05	alonap	craigy52	NoahApteke drowzee	4♥E+2	-480	-6.33	Movie or Lin

#96124 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 2					1/8	0.48	40.33	
1	2024-04-17 12:06	deebie2	Shai007	hewey7 trishc	2♠E+3	200	0.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 12:07	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	nicolap valfb	2♥W+3	200	0.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 12:06	foaden	kangy	dip53 glynisd	2♥W+3	200	0.33	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 12:09	sharrie	lvsm	cassandrax JillyRabz	2♠E+2	170	-1.00	Movie or Lin

	N alonap ♠ K1032 ♥ A5 ♦ J43 ♣ A742	W N E S 1♠ P P 1♥ P P P 2♥ P
	W drowzee ♠ AQJ64 ♥ 7 ♦ A952 ♣ 963	E NoahApteke ♠ 97 ♥ KJ8432 ♦ K6 ♣ KJ5
	S craigy52 ♠ 85 ♥ Q1096 ♦ Q1087 ♣ Q108	2♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Recognizing a misfit, Robert made an excellent decision to pass 2♥. This made for +110. This was worth 5.33 imps. None of the other pairs in either the open or the women's managed to stop in time.

Score: Youth 11.66 Aged 0

#95859 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 2					3/8	0.24	10.33		
1	2024-04-17 12:14	eeps	Hcbfick	cruisey	KingZlot	3NE-3	150	3.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 12:15	imtiazi1	horace1	goldbar	larryc777	3NE-2	100	1.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 12:12	bkpsc	diniar	Dunx	judeap	2NW-2	100	1.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 12:08	alonap	craigy52	NoahApteke	drowzee	2♥E=	-110	-5.33	Movie or Lin

#96124 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 2					1/8	0.48	40.33		
1	2024-04-17 12:15	sharrie	lvsm	cassandrax	JillyRabz	2NS-1	100	5.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 12:14	foaden	kangy	dip53	glynisd	2NW-2	-100	-1.67	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 12:13	deebie2	Shai007	hewey7	trishc	3NE-2	-100	-1.67	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 12:15	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	nicolap	valfb	3NW-2	-100	-1.67	Movie or Lin

Board 3 was flat in both the open and women's

	N alonap ♠ Q ♥ QJ10 ♦ A9876 ♣ J872	W N E S P P 2♥ 4♠ P P P
	W drowzee ♠ J873 ♥ 965 ♦ 53 ♣ AQ63	E NoahApteke ♠ 2 ♥ K87432 ♦ KJ102 ♣ 109
	S craigy52 ♠ AK109654 ♥ A ♦ Q4 ♣ K54	4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Only a diamond lead from West followed by a club switch beats 4S. Robert, not unreasonably lead a heart and declarer was able to later pitch his losing diamond. Allowing 4♠ to make cost 8.33 imps when only 1 other pair made it in the open. In the Women's, 3 pairs made 4♠

Score: Youth 11.33 Aged 8.33

D		N alonap	W	N	E	S
5		♠ K10964 ♥ 94 ♦ Q864 ♣ Q5		P	1♦	1♠
			2♥	3♠	P	P
			4♥	P	P	P
W drowzee				E NoahApteke		
♠ 8 ♥ KQJ108632 ♦ 9 ♣ AJ9				♠ A3 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ1053 ♣ K10874		
		S craigy52				
		♠ QJ752 ♥ A7 ♦ K72 ♣ 632				
			4♥ W		NS: 0 EW: 0	


Robert and Noah got to the reasonable spot of 4♥ making 5. Robert judged well in a competitive auction that 6♥ was unlikely to be better than 50% and could be off 2 aces. There was no convenient way to ask for aces in their methods. Results in the open were variable. 2 pairs got to 6♥, one making and one going down. A third pair had a key card misunderstanding landing in 4NT going 2 down. This meant 3.67 imps to Youth. In the Women's the board was flat with no pairs trying the 50% slam.

Score: Youth 15 Aged 8.33

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W	N	E	S																
		P	P																
1♠	P	1NT	P																
P	P																		
W drowzee ♠ J8632 ♥ K8 ♦ K8 ♣ KJ65	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">♠A</div>	E NoahApteke ♠ 10 ♥ Q1062 ♦ J93 ♣ A10974																	
	S craigy52 ♠ A ♥ 975 ♦ Q7642 ♣ Q832		1NT E NS: 1 EW: 2																

Craig led the 2♦ ducked by Alon. Noah got the clubs wrong and gave up a club. In this position shown above, Craig made an excellent decision to unblock the A♠ and this led to 3 down for -300 (never a good score for E/W). This was worth 4 imps to the Aged couple.

Score: Youth 15 Aged 12.33

	N alonap ♠ K96 ♥ Q98653 ♦ 98 ♣ A7	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S				2♦	P	3♠	3NT	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S														
			2♦															
P	3♠	3NT	P															
P	P																	
W drowzee ♠ 7 ♥ KJ72 ♦ J74 ♣ J10854	E NoahApteke ♠ AJ2 ♥ A104 ♦ AK652 ♣ K9																	
	S craigy52 ♠ Q108543 ♥ ♦ Q103 ♣ Q632	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0																

Facing heavy pre-emptive bidding by N/S, Noah bid 3NT. He took his best shot by ducking 2 rounds of spades and then hoped that the Q♦ would come down and that South had no entry. Down 3 again was 2.33 imps to the Aged pair.

Score: Youth 15 Aged 14.66

D 8	N alonap	W	N	E	S
	♠ 984 ♥ 8754 ♦ AK85 ♣ Q10	1♣	P	2♦	P
W drowzee		P	P		
♠ AKQ6 ♥ J93 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ732	♣ 8	E NoahApteke			
	S craigy52	♠ 1052 ♥ AK ♦ QJ7642 ♣ 54			
	♠ J73 ♥ Q1062 ♦ 103 ♣ A986				
				2♦ E	NS: 1 EW: 2

Noah made an invitational 2♦ bid after partner opened 1♣. When Craig got in with the 10♦ he made what might appear to be a risky switch to a low club. If declarer has a singleton club it would cost a trick. However, Craig knew from partner's signalling in hearts and spades that declarer had 2 hearts, 3 spades and 6 diamonds and therefore 2 clubs. Normally, it is very difficult to switch to a club holding the queen looking at the king and jack in dummy but everyone at the table knew that declarer did not hold the A♣. Noah mis-guessed the clubs and went 1 down losing 4 diamonds and 2 clubs. This was worth 2.33 imps to Aged when NT part scores made twice.

Was it an error to finesse the ♦9? Checking this holding in my book on suit combinations, the best play is low to the queen. This would have saved a trick on this hand.

Score: Youth 15 Aged 16.99

We have new leaders at the halfway mark

Board 9 was mostly flat, but the Aged pair won 0.33 imps for making an overtrick in 2♠

Score: Youth 15 Aged 17.32

		N alonap ♠ 9876 ♥ Q9 ♦ K ♣ KQ10654	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	1♥	1NT	X	P	P	2♣	X	P	P	2♦	P	P	2♥	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																								
		P	1♥																								
1NT	X	P	P																								
2♣	X	P	P																								
2♦	P	P	2♥																								
P	P	P																									
W drowzee ♠ J102 ♥ J6 ♦ AQ97654 ♣ 2		E NoahApteke ♠ Q53 ♥ K3 ♦ 1082 ♣ AJ873																									
	S craigy52 ♠ AK4 ♥ A1087542 ♦ J3 ♣ 9		2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																								

Youth psyched a 1NT overcall by the West seat. Psyches have become less common in modern bridge because players have found that these frequently backfire. The psyche had the effect of keeping N/S out of a poorish 4♥. The favourable lie of cards resulted in 4♥ making at a couple of tables and therefore N/S lost 4.33 imps on the hand. Such are the vicissitudes of life!

Did you know that psyches must be reported to the tournament director? Both the perpetrators and their opponents should report these. Psyching is not illegal but if a competitor repeatedly psyches in similar situation, it becomes suspicious that his partner will 'field' the psyche which is illegal.

Board 11 was flat but an overtrick meant a further 0.33 imps to Youth

Score: Youth 19.66 Aged 16.99 – new leaders

D 12	N alonap	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q32 ♥ QJ10982 ♦ ♣ KQJ9	1NT	2♦	3NT	P
W drowzee	♣K	E NoahApteke			
♠ AK105 ♥ 753 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ A5		♠ 987 ♥ K6 ♦ A87642 ♣ 73			
	S craigy52				
	♠ J64 ♥ A4 ♦ 1095 ♣ 108642	3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0			

More bad news for the Aged when Alon tried a surprise attacking lead of the K♣ against an aggressive 3NT bid by Noah. Had Alon lead the Q♥, Robert would have faced a nasty guess which I suspect he would have got wrong.

Making 3NT was worth 5 imps to Youth

Score: Youth 24.66 Aged 16.99

Board 12 was a mixed bag of results and the Aged ones emerged with 1 imp.

Score: Youth 24.66 Aged 17.99

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">14^D</div>		N alonap	W	N	E	S
		♠ 963 ♥ 765 ♦ 72 ♣ 108765	1♣ 1♠ 2♥ P 2NT P 4♥ P P P			
W drowzee			E NoahApteke			
♠ 10 ♥ KQJ1093 ♦ 10864 ♣ AK			♠ QJ42 ♥ 42 ♦ AQJ ♣ QJ32			
		S craigy52				
		♠ AK875 ♥ A8 ♦ K953 ♣ 94				
				4♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0		

Alon found the great lead of the 7♦ instead of woodenly leading partner's suit against 4♥ by West. This earned him 7.33 imps when 4♥ went 2 down after accurate defence.

#95859 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 2					3/8	0.24	10.33	
1	2024-04-17 12:59	alonap	craigy52	NoahApteke drowzee	4♥W-2	100	7.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 13:26	eeps	Hcbfick	cruisey KingZlot	4♥W-2	100	7.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 13:28	bkpsc	diniar	Dunx judeap	4♥W=	-420	-7.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 13:12	imtiazi1	horace1	goldbar larryc777	4♥W+1	-450	-7.67	Movie or Lin

#96124 Pairs SABF WOMEN TRIALS Finals 2					1/8	0.48	40.33	
1	2024-04-17 13:30	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	nicolap valfb	4♥W+1	450	0.67	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 13:28	foaden	kangy	dip53 glynisd	4♥W+1	450	0.67	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 13:23	sharrie	lvsm	cassandrax JillyRabz	3NE+1	430	-0.67	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 13:20	deebie2	Shai007	hewey7 trishc	4♥W=	420	-0.67	Movie or Lin

Neville Eber was the only other player to find the 7♦ lead

Score: Youth 24.66 Aged 25.32

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	W	N	E	S														
1NT	P	2NT	P															
3♣	P	3♥	P															
3NT	P	P	P															
W drowzee ♠ 72 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ 106 ♣ AQ743	E NoahApteke ♠ 65 ♥ Q ♦ AKQJ943 ♣ J98	S craigy52 ♠ KQ1084 ♥ 862 ♦ 87 ♣ 652																
		3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0																

Robert decided to treat his hand as balanced 15-17 anticipating rebid problems if partner responded 1♠ to a 1♣ opening. This led to a silly contract of 3NT with no spade stopper. After the spade lead from Alon, 3NT went rapidly down one.

There were too many negatives to opening 1NT with the West hand. Two unstopped suits and a very suit orientated hand with the total point count out of range.

This resulted in 7 imps to Aged

Score: Youth 19.66 Aged 32.32

Board 16 gave a further 2.67 imps to the Aged when at another table, a profitable save in 5♣ was taken against a making 4♠ contract.

Final Score: Youth 24.66 Aged 34.99

Aged pair, Alon and Craig had won by 10.33 imps

Overall, this was a well-played match. The Aged ones made no unforced errors, found the correct leads and accurate defences on a few of the hands. The win was well deserved.

MATCH REPORT 2

The third match today in the women's pitted Val Bloom and Nicky Bateman who were lying second against Di Penlington and Glynis Dornon who were fourth.

Fireworks began with the first hand out of the box.

D 1	N dip53 ♠ A7432 ♥ 976 ♦ 742 ♣ J4	W N E S P P 1♦ P 2♣ P 2NT P 3♥ P 4♣ P 4♥ P 4♠ P 4NT P 5♥ P 6♣ P P
W valfb ♠ J5 ♥ AJ108 ♦ Q ♣ AQ10653		E nicolap ♠ K96 ♥ K43 ♦ AJ85 ♣ K98
	S glynisd ♠ Q108 ♥ Q52 ♦ K10963 ♣ 72	6♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0

The bidding went as above and it raises some important issues for players to discuss.

1. Does the 3♥ bid invite partner to bid 4♣ or should partner always bid 3NT without heart support even with no stoppers in the 4th suit?
2. When playing a 2 over 1 system, does the 4♣ bid by Nicky promise 18-19 HCP or could it be an inability to bid 3NT? Clearly on the auction given, Val thought Nicky was showing 18-19 and this led to the disaster of reaching a poor slam requiring 2 finesses.

All would have been forgiven if Val had guessed the position of the Q♥ but failure to do so meant the loss of 11 imps. All I can say is that Val's hand was just too good. If she doesn't have the 10♥, she would be smiling all the way to the bank.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2 D </div>		N dip53 ♠ A6 ♥ AKQ764 ♦ J7 ♣ 872	W N E S P 4♥ 3♠ P P P P P
		W valfb ♠ 92 ♥ 1085 ♦ K105 ♣ AKQ103	E nicolap ♠ KQJ10874 ♥ 2 ♦ 93 ♣ J64
		S glynisd ♠ 53 ♥ J93 ♦ AQ8642 ♣ 95	4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

In modern bridge the so-called rule of 2 and 3 has been thrown out of the window. Most would consider the East hand just too good for a favourable vulnerability 3 level pre-empt and would opt to put maximum pressure on opponents and bid 4♠. None of the pairs in the Women's opened 4♠ but bizarrely at all the other tables, West competed to 4♠ after North bid 4♥. (They clearly have never seen any of my favourable vulnerability 3 level pre-empts). This prompted N/S to go onto 5♥ which went 2 down. As a result, Val and Nicky lost 3 imps on the board.

#96128 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 3						1/8	0.48	32.67	
1	2024-04-17 15:48	dip53	glynisd	nicolap	valfb	4♥N-1	-100	3.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 15:42	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	foaden	kangy	5♥N-2	-200	-1.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 15:41	sharrie	lvsrn	deebie2	Shai007	5♥N-2	-200	-1.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 15:39	hewey7	trishc	cassandrax	JillyRabz	4♥N-2	-200	-1.00	Movie or Lin

Noah Apteker was the only player in both fields who correctly, in my view, opened 4♠ and was rewarded with 7.33 imps when this made.

	N dip53 ♠ Q93 ♥ KJ ♦ K84 ♣ 97643	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦	P	1♠	X	1NT	2♣	2♠	3♣	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S														
1♦	P	1♠	X															
1NT	2♣	2♠	3♣															
P	P	P																
W valfb ♠ 54 ♥ AQ10 ♦ QJ1062 ♣ K82	E nicolap ♠ KJ10872 ♥ 753 ♦ 975 ♣ J																	
	S glynisd ♠ A6 ♥ 98642 ♦ A3 ♣ AQ105	3♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0																

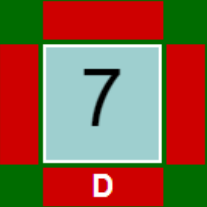
On this hand Glynis Dornon did well when she doubled 1♠ for takeout in the sandwich position with the South hand. I was surprised to see that 2 pairs in the Women's, after an identical start, took no action with the South hand.

3♣ made 11 tricks when the defence failed to attack the spade suit.

Nicky and Val were let down by poor partners (all the other N/S pairs) who failed to bid their hands correctly and this cost them 4.67 imps

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">6</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 5px;">D</div>	N dip53 ♠ 109762 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K3 ♣ K54	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">X</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	P	1♦	1♠	X	2♠	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S														
		P	P															
1♦	1♠	X	2♠															
P	P	P																
W valfb ♠ Q543 ♥ 10 ♦ AJ10752 ♣ AQ	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;">♥8</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 10px;">♥10</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 10px;">♥K</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">♥5</div>	E nicolap ♠ K8 ♥ K432 ♦ 964 ♣ 8762																
	S glynisd ♠ AJ ♥ Q9765 ♦ Q8 ♣ J1093	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">2♠ N</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 20px;">NS: 1 EW: 2</div>																

I cannot recommend raising partner's overcall with a doubleton especially with soft values in opponent's suits. (I am reminded of Craig Gower's maxim that when you have points in your opponents' suits, they have points in yours). The very favourable lie of opponents' cards meant that this inelegant contract had some play. However, a mis-defence by Nicky resulted in 2♠ making. When partner switches to a long suit in dummy, 99% of the time, this is a singleton and she should have given her partner a ruff. Letting 2♠ make cost 2.67 imps.

	N dip53 ♠ KQ1062 ♥ 842 ♦ 105 ♣ A86	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♥		P	P	P	P	1♠	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S														
		1♥																
P	P	P	P															
1♠	P	P	P															
W valfb ♠ 8543 ♥ K ♦ QJ83 ♣ KJ104	E nicolap ♠ AJ7 ♥ AQ963 ♦ K97 ♣ 72																	
	S glynisd ♠ 9 ♥ J1075 ♦ A642 ♣ Q953	1♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0																

Again, Nicky and Val got a bad score for getting to a reasonable spot when the field either doubled 1♠ to make or bid a highly ambitious 3NT requiring a favourable lie of the cards in 3 suits. 3NT was unbeatable. Nicky and Val lost 5.33 imps for doing nothing wrong.

D 8	N dip53	W	N	E	S
	♠ KQJ ♥ 6 ♦ 8764 ♣ AJ1084	1♥	2♣	2♠	P
W valfb		3♠	P	4♠	P
♠ A6 ♥ KQJ52 ♦ 92 ♣ 9765		P	P		
	S glynisd	E nicolap			
	♠ 52 ♥ 109873 ♦ A105 ♣ K32	♠ 1098743 ♥ A4 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ Q			
			4♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0		

Opening the West hand with a featureless 10 count cannot be recommended. This resulted in E/W reaching a no play 4♠ which Glynis and Di had no problems defeating. It cost 5 imps

#96128 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 3						1/8	0.48	32.67	
1	2024-04-17 16:24	dip53	glynisd	nicolap	valfb	4♠E-1	50	5.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-17 16:13	hewey7	trishc	cassandrax	JillyRabz	2♠E=	-110	0.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-17 16:19	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	foaden	kangy	2♠E+1	-140	-1.33	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-17 16:21	sharrie	lvsm	deebee2	Shai007	5♠S-4	-200	-3.67	Movie or Lin

D 9	N dip53 ♠ 972 ♥ J652 ♦ QJ4 ♣ K82	W N E S 1♠ P 1♥ P P P 2♥ P P P
W valfb ♠ KJ108 ♥ ♦ 10986 ♣ AJ1075	S glynisd ♠ A65 ♥ 984 ♦ A532 ♣ Q43	E nicolap ♠ Q43 ♥ AKQ1073 ♦ K7 ♣ 96
		2♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

The East hand is problematic for standard bidders. Rebidding 2♥ is an underbid especially holding 3 card support for partner's suit.

Many experts have developed methods to deal with hands of this nature i.e a good 6 card suit with 3 card support for partner. To do this, they give up using a jump to 2NT to show a balanced hand with 18-19 points. Instead, they use this bid to distinguish between jumps in the same suit to show a 6 card suit with 3 card support for partner and 2NT to show a 6 card suit without support or a balanced 4 card raise in partner's suit with around 18 HCP. Obviously, using these methods, you need to have bids to show 18-19 balanced. System developer have noticed that 2NT bids showing 18-19 balanced are rarely passed and therefore recommend playing the bid as forcing in which case it can be used to show multiple hand types.

The conservative 2♥ bid making 11 tricks cost 5imps when the field again let them down and allowed an unmakeable 3NT by E/W to succeed. On that point, I cannot help feeling that if East bids 3♥ and West goes 3NT, East with a self-sufficient suit and potentially no entry, should convert to 4♥. The void in partner's long suit should sway West to make a conservative pass of 3♥.

<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 15 D </div>	N dip53 ♠ KJ6 ♥ 3 ♦ 9754 ♣ AJ1086	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: red; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1NT	P	P	P								
	W	N	E	S														
1NT	P	P	P															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: blue; color: white;">W</th> <th colspan="3"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>valfb ♠ A2 ♥ A965 ♦ KQ86 ♣ K32 </td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W				valfb ♠ A2 ♥ A965 ♦ KQ86 ♣ K32					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: blue; color: white;">E</th> <th colspan="3"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>nicolap ♠ 10975 ♥ KQ72 ♦ J10 ♣ Q97 </td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	E				nicolap ♠ 10975 ♥ KQ72 ♦ J10 ♣ Q97			
W																		
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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: blue; color: white;">S</th> <th colspan="3"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>glynisd ♠ Q843 ♥ J1084 ♦ A32 ♣ 54 </td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	S				glynisd ♠ Q843 ♥ J1084 ♦ A32 ♣ 54				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>1NT W</td> <td>NS: 0 EW: 0</td> </tr> </table>	1NT W	NS: 0 EW: 0						
S																		
glynisd ♠ Q843 ♥ J1084 ♦ A32 ♣ 54																		
1NT W	NS: 0 EW: 0																	

I approve of Nicky's pass of 1NT especially as she was not vulnerable. She was rewarded with 3.67 imps when despite partner having a near perfect hand, 4♥ bid at 2 other tables went down because of the bad heart break. In the open, only 1 pair, again Noah and Robert, stayed out of game on this hand and were similarly rewarded. 4♥ is a reasonable contract so Glynis and Di were unlucky here to lose 3.67 imps.

Never the less, I believe that South Africans, in general, have become very fearful of missing games and they forget how many times they go down in 2NT or 3 of a major when partner has a minimum. This is costly. Beware of taking action after a 1NT opening if you have a balanced hand and there is a risk of landing in 2NT with a combined 23 count when partner is minimum. This will usually go down. In this tournament I have seen many hands where partner rebids a 12-14 NT and the responder with a balanced 11 count makes a game try leading to an unmakeable contract.

When the dust cleared Glynis and Di emerged victorious with +32.67 imps. They had played well with few errors and fully deserved their win. Nicky and Val made some errors but did not deserve to lose by such a big margin. They were often at the mercy of their partners, all the other N/S players, who did not help their cause at all.

*Submitted by
Bernard Donde*