



THE SA MIXED TRIALS BRIDGE MARATHON IS OVER!

Many Congratulations to LARRY CHEMALY and SHARON LANG (Gauteng), TERRY and JAN EAST (from Plettenberg Bay) and DUNCAN KEET and CAROL STANTON (Cape Town) for being the chosen 6 to represent South Africa in the World Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Larry and Sharon had a total of 143.78VPs at the end, with Terry and Jan in 2nd place with 131.41VPs, and Duncan and Carol 3rd with 124.38VPs. Commiserations to Andre Van Niekerk and Rose Duff who were in 4th by the narrowest of margins. They had 121.72VPs, a mere 2.66VPs less than Duncan and Carol. Nor were the other finalists far behind either.

Three of this team have represented South Africa before and three are first-timers. Duncan is a newcomer, but he had entered the Open trials as well. Larry and Sharon had done this too, in the Open and Women's Sections respectively.

Terry and Jan East only entered the Mixed Trials and interestingly enough only play with each other! It is their first-time representing South Africa and a first time for Plettenberg Bay to have SA Bridge representatives. What a great achievement!

Everyone was full of praise for Steve Bunker's excellent organisation of the Trials and he and many of the players commented on the good spirit in which they had been played. Everyone involved would like to wish this team the very best of luck for the World Championships.

I guess there are quite a few months now in which to fine tune systems and get in plenty of practice!



Deirdre Ingersent



Sharon Lang, Larry Chemaly, Terry East, Jan East, Carol Stanton, Duncan Keet

MIXED PAIRS FINALS – FINAL RESULTS

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	C/O	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Win	Draw	Lose
			VPs	IMPs	VPs															
Larry Chemaly & Sharon Lang	1	143.78	59.39	33	17.17	18	14.60	-10	7.20	4	11.20	14	13.75	14	13.75	-12	6.72	5	0	2
Terry East & Jan East	2	131.41	67.41	1	10.31	-2	9.39	-13	6.48	-13	6.48	7	12.03	-15	6.03	12	13.28	3	0	4
Duncan Keet & Carol Stanton	3	124.38	51.47	17	14.39	3	10.91	14	13.75	-4	8.80	-7	7.97	-13	6.48	2	10.61	4	0	3
Andre Van Niekerk & Rose Duff	4	121.72	48.99	15	13.97	2	10.61	-14	6.25	35	17.45	-12	6.72	-14	6.25	5	11.48	4	0	3
Glen Holman & Michele Alexander	5	119.49	58.13	-1	9.69	-24	4.26	10	12.80	-35	2.55	8	12.29	13	13.52	-14	6.25	3	0	4
Phil King & Merle Bracher	6	116.35	56.50	-33	2.83	-3	9.09	13	13.52	-52	0.66	12	13.28	-12	6.72	14	13.75	3	0	4
Peter Ward & Merle Modlin	7	112.84	44.84	-17	5.61	-18	5.40	-9	7.45	52	19.34	-8	7.71	15	13.97	-5	8.52	2	0	5
Paul Reynolds & Erica Zimet	8	110.02	33.26	-15	6.03	24	15.74	9	12.55	13	13.52	-14	6.25	12	13.28	-2	9.39	4	0	3

And so we come to the end of the Mixed Pairs Trials. The final round was very exciting with 5 pairs in strong contention for positions 2 and 3. The final 16 boards were relatively flat with many part-score auctions and uncontested game auctions. Not many IMPs were exchanged and the 3 pairs who were lying in pole positions going into the last round managed to retain their positions and will represent South Africa in Buenos Aires. Well Done!

Law of Total Tricks

D 12	N larryc777	W	N	E	S
	♠ 42 ♥ A10843 ♦ A983 ♣ 43	P P 2♣ 3♣	P 1♥ 3♥ P	P 1♠ P P	1♦ 2♥ P P
W teeast	E SweetieE				
♠ 9653 ♥ Q76 ♦ QJ ♣ AQ85	♠ KQ1087 ♥ K ♦ 104 ♣ J10972				
S sharrie					
♠ AJ ♥ J952 ♦ K7652 ♣ K6					
		3♣ E	NS: 0 EW: 0		

Those who believe in the law of total tricks, can show off this hand. Both sides have 9 card trump fits and both sides can make 9 tricks in their fits. 2 pairs allowed their opponents to play in 2♣, 1 in 3♥ and 1 pair got overboard to 4♠ after East opened a Dutch 2 in spades.

A Little Optimistic

Continuing my theme of game tries opposite a balanced hand. When partner shows 15-17 balanced, you need 9 HCP's to make a game try with a balanced hand. This is an analogous situation to when partner shows 12-14 HCP's, you need 12 HCP's to make a game try. Only a 5-card suit or lots of working 10's would tempt me to try for game with less.

2 pairs in the mixed trials got to game after super aggressive bidding with a 7 count. This led to an inevitable 1 or 2 down and loss of IMPs.

D 7	N larryc777 ♠ Q8632 ♥ A5 ♦ Q75 ♣ 985	W N E S P P 1NT P 2♣ P 2♥ P 4♥ P P P	
	W teeast ♠ K1075 ♥ KJ86 ♦ 82 ♣ 1074	E SweetieE ♠ A94 ♥ Q972 ♦ K93 ♣ AQJ	
	S sharrie ♠ J ♥ 1043 ♦ AJ1064 ♣ K632		4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Ending with a Bang

D 16	N impalaphil ♠ KQ93 ♥ J4 ♦ K84 ♣ AJ73	W N E S P 1♣ P 1♠ P 2♠ P 3♣ P 3♠ P 4NT P 5♠ P 6♠	
	W glensa ♠ 75 ♥ 32 ♦ Q10963 ♣ Q1054	E lady macb ♠ A6 ♥ Q10976 ♦ 752 ♣ 862	
	S stacey31 ♠ J10842 ♥ AK85 ♦ AJ ♣ K9		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

The last board of the tournament of the trials offered an opportunity for a big swing. Only one pair managed to get to the good spade slam on this auction.

Did the remaining pairs do badly by not bidding the slam? Not really. The 2 hands fit very well and the solidity of the spade suit down to the 8 makes this an excellent slam. Note that if you remove the 3♣ and give North another heart, the slam is very poor and will usually go down. Natural bidders would have difficulty in diagnosing that partner has the doubleton heart.

Final Thoughts & Thanks

Thank you to Lotte Sorensen and Rob Stephens who both spent many hours editing and formatting the bulletin. Steve Bunker put in an enormous effort to ensure that the trials ran smoothly and fairly. The contestants also played their role in making his task easier by avoiding contentious calls and remaining courteous to their opponents.

A couple of complaints:

1. Players did not always alert conventional calls. I hope our successful representatives will be vigilant in self-alerting overseas and will offer full disclosure to their opponents which should be the norm in these competitions.
2. Applying to online and face-to-face bridge, players seem to have forgotten that an 8-10 second pause is required after any jump in the bidding by opponents. During this pause, the player is expected to be thinking about what to bid and when time is up, should take action immediately. This is to protect your side from giving unauthorized information.

Overall, I felt that the standard of bridge played at the mixed trials was below par. This was not surprising as mixed pair events have not been held in South Africa for a long time. Most of the partnerships were new and therefore had to concentrate on not having systemic misunderstandings at the expense of applying good judgement. I hope that in the next few months, our successful contestants will take this opportunity to practice against both the women's and open teams to consolidate their partnerships which will allow them to be competitive in the World Championships.

None of this distracts from the final performance of the top 3 pairs who played better than the rest and fully deserve their spots to represent us overseas.

- **Bernard Donde**

