



AND SO IT GOES!

Commiserations to those who did not make the cut (Finish in the Top Eight) and Congratulations to those who did!

My personal observations -

If I were a person who bet on racehorses and bridge players, I would have selected the first three Open pairs myself. And why? They have form! The youngest competitors, Noah Apteker and Robert Stephens, were the best in the Qualifying Rounds followed by Neville Eber and Hennie Fick, then Alon Apteker and Craig Gower. Another interesting fact is there are no fewer than 3 members of the same family still in the running as Jude Apteker is there as well.

The Women's I thought all along was more open and difficult to predict. Nicky Bateman and Val Bloom finished in the pole position ahead of Diana Balkin and Sharon Izerel with Dianne Penlington and Glynis Dornon in 3rd spot. However, the spread of points between the 1st and 8th qualifiers is less than in the Open Event so who knows what can happen?

I hope those who did not make the cut this time will, as the golfers say, be back to try again and that they enjoyed the experience this time.

And for those pairs who are through, remember it is not all over until the fat lady sings and that is still in the distance. There is another total round robin to be played and more boards per match! Keep going and concentrate!

Deirdre Ingersent

The tournament has been run extremely efficiently so far owing to the expertise of our tournament director, Steve Bunker. Having been in contact with him over the past few weeks, he has been working tirelessly to ensure that this event runs smoothly.

He has created an excellent website with links to the SABF site where everyone can easily access results after each round. I believe that this is a first for an online SABF tournament.

BBO posed a number of challenges to the running of a tournament of this nature. The available BBO movements were found to be unsuitable for our purposes for various reasons. As a result, Steve had to source a suitable movement, manually enter the pairs each round, manually convert results to victory points, draw up results tables and post these on the net. Besides all this, he was kept busy with tournament director duties such as adjudicating incidents at the table, ensuring that all players are online and fielding requests from the players. It was only because he had carefully pre-prepared multiple spread sheets and anticipated multiple obstacles that he was able to run this event in such a highly efficient way. The SABF is indebted to him for his professionalism in ensuring that this premier event is properly and fairly run. Thank you!!

Bernard Donde

OPEN QUALIFIERS - Results by Round

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8		Round 9		Round 10		Round 11		Adjustment	
			IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	Note	VPs
Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens	1	155.44	BYE	12.00	6	12.01	24	16.37	5	11.70	21	15.79	81	20.00	25	16.55	6	12.01	-12	6.29	26	16.73	22	15.99		
Neville Eber & Hennie Fick	2	143.92	2	10.71	13	13.97	18	15.15	25	16.55	29	17.24	22	15.99	-3	8.95	1	10.36	12	13.71	BYE	12.00	-2	9.29		
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower	3	136.93	27	16.91	-6	7.99	12	13.71	-6	7.99	18	15.15	BYE	12.00	0	10.00	-1	9.64	5	11.70	17	14.93	27	16.91		
Andrew Cruise & Saul Burman	4	112.62	-18	4.85	-19	4.63	20	15.58	15	14.46	-18	4.85	20	15.58	3	11.05	BYE	12.00	9	12.90	-26	3.27	11	13.45		
Imtiaz Kaprey & Paul Reynolds	5	110.08	18	15.15	-13	6.03	-2	9.29	-21	4.21	-20	4.42	33	17.86	BYE	12.00	-6	7.99	4	11.38	39	18.66	-27	3.09		
Brian Pincus & Dinar Minwalla	6	107.52	-7	7.69	5	11.70	-20	4.42	-25	3.45	-21	4.21	7	12.31	0	10.00	41	18.90	-4	8.62	14	14.22	BYE	12.00		
Duncan Keet & Jude Apteker	7	106.04	7	12.31	-5	8.30	-24	3.63	21	15.79	BYE	12.00	-22	4.01	24	16.37	0	10.00	6	12.01	-17	5.07	-11	6.55		
James Grant & Larry Chemaly	8	104.11	13	13.97	-5	8.30	-12	6.29	BYE	12.00	48	19.64	-20	4.42	-25	3.45	34	18.00	-6	7.99	-39	1.34	2	10.71	(a)	-2.00
Kevin Smith & Chris Castelein	9	91.66	-13	6.03	BYE	12.00	2	10.71	6	12.01	-29	2.76	-81	0.00	3	11.05	0	10.00	-9	7.10	-14	5.78	14	14.22		
Michael Alexander & Anton Der Kinderen	10	89.91	-2	9.29	5	11.70	BYE	12.00	-15	5.54	20	15.58	-7	7.69	-3	8.95	-34	2.00	-5	8.30	-18	4.85	-22	4.01		
Glen Holman & David Beinart	11	71.77	-27	3.09	19	15.37	-18	4.85	-5	8.30	-48	0.36	-33	2.14	-24	3.63	-41	1.10	BYE	12.00	18	15.15	-14	5.78		

WOMEN QUALIFIERS - Results by Round

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8		Round 9		Round 10		Round 11	
			IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom	1	140.33	BYE	12.00	17	14.93	31	17.56	11	13.45	-3	8.95	15	14.46	0	10.00	0	10.00	9	12.90	9	12.90	10	13.18
Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel	2	137.35	1	10.36	9	12.90	61	20.00	BYE	12.00	7	12.31	20	15.58	0	10.00	7	12.31	5	11.70	24	16.37	-23	3.82
Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon	3	125.64	11	13.45	-2	9.29	8	12.61	-3	8.95	-3	8.95	32	17.71	6	12.01	-8	7.39	-9	7.10	BYE	12.00	23	16.18
Carol Grunder & Jill Rabie	4	120.94	-1	9.64	BYE	12.00	11	13.45	-9	7.10	3	11.05	-15	5.54	-9	7.10	13	13.97	-1	9.64	11	13.45	34	18.00
Sharon Lang & Lotte Sorensen	5	117.26	-13	6.03	-9	7.10	27	16.91	3	11.05	3	11.05	-9	7.10	11	13.45	12	13.71	7	12.31	-11	6.55	BYE	12.00
Bev Hewitt & Trish Crosse	6	106.06	11	13.45	-17	5.07	-61	0.00	9	12.90	28	17.08	BYE	12.00	-11	6.55	8	12.61	-8	7.39	-16	5.30	12	13.71
Jennifer Foaden & Renee Kenny	7	105.64	12	13.71	2	10.71	-11	6.55	21	15.79	-16	5.30	13	13.97	BYE	12.00	0	10.00	-7	7.69	-24	3.63	-12	6.29
Peta Balderson & Jennifer Gautschi	8	105.13	-11	6.55	-11	6.55	BYE	12.00	-20	4.42	16	14.70	9	12.90	9	12.90	-7	7.69	8	12.61	-6	7.99	-10	6.82
Janne Masojada & Tanya Rawson	9	99.00	13	13.97	11	13.45	-31	2.44	-21	4.21	BYE	12.00	-32	2.29	14	14.22	-13	6.03	-5	8.30	16	14.70	-8	7.39
Mary Mutch & Erica Zimet	10	87.44	-11	6.55	18	15.15	-8	7.39	-11	6.55	-7	7.69	-13	6.03	-14	5.78	-12	6.29	BYE	12.00	6	12.01	-34	2.00
Zela Stern & Carol Stanton	11	87.21	-12	6.29	-18	4.85	-27	3.09	20	15.58	-28	2.92	-20	4.42	-6	7.99	BYE	12.00	1	10.36	-9	7.10	8	12.61

Open Carryovers

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs
Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens	1	80.81
Neville Eber & Hennie Fick	2	75.62
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower	3	75.25
Andrew Cruise & Saul Burman	4	60.47
Imtiaz Kaprey & Paul Reynolds	5	58.88
Duncan Keet & Jude Apteker	6	53.53
Brian Pincus & Diniar Minwalla	7	46.57
James Grant & Larry Chemaly	8	38.88

OPEN FINALS - Match Schedule

Start	Rnd	Tbl	North	South	East	West
Wed 17-Apr 10:00	1	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
		2	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul
		3	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig
		4	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
Wed 17-Apr 12:00	2	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude
		2	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
		3	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul
		4	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
Wed 17-Apr 15:30	3	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
		2	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob
		3	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul
		4	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude

Women Carryovers

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs
Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel	1	73.32
Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom	2	72.32
Peta Balderson & Jennifer Gautschi	3	64.63
Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon	4	62.48
Sharon Lang & Lotte Sorensen	5	60.46
Carol Grunder & Jill Rabie	6	59.50
Bev Hewitt & Trish Crosse	7	52.67
Jennifer Foaden & Renee Kenny	8	46.63

WOMEN'S FINALS - Match Schedule

Start	Rnd	Tbl	North	South	East	West
Wed 17-Apr 10:00	1	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
		2	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee
		3	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer
		4	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
Wed 17-Apr 12:00	2	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill
		2	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
		3	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish
		4	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
Wed 17-Apr 15:30	3	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
		2	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val
		3	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee
		4	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; font-size: 2em; margin: 0 10px;">8</div> </div>	N alonap ♠ 8 ♥ QJ1084 ♦ AK97 ♣ Q65	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♥	P	1♠	P	2♦	P	4♦	P	4NT	P	6♦	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S																		
P	1♥	P	1♠																			
P	2♦	P	4♦																			
P	4NT	P	6♦																			
P	P	P																				
W Hcbfick ♠ KJ952 ♥ 92 ♦ Q8 ♣ K732	S craigy52 ♠ AQ107 ♥ AK ♦ J1032 ♣ A104	E eebs ♠ 643 ♥ 7653 ♦ 654 ♣ J98																				

6♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Slam hands are always exciting.

On the auction above, Craig Gower, South, appreciated the value of his strong holding in partner's 1st suit and excellent controls and bid 4♦ which was minorwood. When partner showed 2 key cards without the queen, South settled for 6♦. 2 pairs in the Open and 2 in the Women's failed to bid a slam when they made quantitative tries of 4NT. Not appreciating the power of a fit led them to missing a reasonable slam.

Note that 6♦ is superior to 6NT which was reached twice in the Women's event. The 4-4 fit often produces an extra trick when played in a suit contract. This theme will be revisited later.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> D 4 </div>	N foaden ♠ A108 ♥ J98 ♦ J102 ♣ 10632	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr style="background-color: red; color: white;"> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: yellow;"> <td>3♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1NT	P	3♦	P	4♠	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S														
P	P	1NT	P															
3♦	P	4♠	P															
P	P																	
W valfb ♠ Q9762 ♥ KQ643 ♦ 53 ♣ 5	S kangy ♠ 54 ♥ A107 ♦ K874 ♣ K974	E nicolap ♠ KJ3 ♥ 52 ♦ AQ96 ♣ AQJ8																
		4♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0																

Val Bloom (West) used a convention that I believe is quite good. Her 3♦ bid showed at least 5-5 in the majors and invitational plus values. Nicola Bateman had a maximum but also importantly held Aces in the minor suits where partner was short and she bid 4S. This auction was duplicated by Rob Stephens and Noah Apteker in the open.

If you don't have another more important meaning for 3♦ after partner's 1NT opening, I strongly suggest you consider adopting this convention. With a minimum and/or soft cards in the minors, opener bids 3♥ or 3♠. With a maximum or good fitting cards in the majors, the opener bids 4♥ or 4♠. With a super hand fitting with partner, there is a convention developed in the Scandinavian countries called LISSABON. Playing this convention, 4♣ is a super accept in hearts and 4♦ is a super accept in spades. An example of a super accept would be ♠AKXX ♥AXX ♦AJX ♣XXX – bid 4♦. If you match this hand with the West's hand you will see that 6♠ has play even though partner has only a 7 count.

D 1	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ AQ9 ♥ Q53 ♦ J9542 ♣ A9	3♦ 6♥ P	1♦ P X	3♣ 4♣ P	P X P
W			E		
♠ KJ86 ♥ A10942 ♦ AQ10 ♣ 7			♠ 2 ♥ 86 ♦ K873 ♣ Q105432		
	S				
	♠ 107543 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 6 ♣ KJ86				
		6♥x W			NS: 0 EW: 0

Even the mighty fall sometimes. Here was a casualty of Ghestem. The perpetrators of this shall remain anonymous but suffice to say the E/W pair have represented South Africa many times in the past.

In the heat of the moment, West forgot that their agreement was that 3♦ shows both majors after a 1♦ opening. 3♣ by east was a weak jump overcall in their methods. There was no escape and 6 doubled cost 15.75 imps. Even though this disaster occurred on board 1, they did not lose their heads and went on to win the match against a strong pair. This is the lesson to be learnt – forget your disasters and you can often recover.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> 7 D </div>	N glensa ♠ 9 ♥ Q97 ♦ QJ10863 ♣ KQ2	W N E S P 1NT P 1♠ P 2♥ P 2♣ P 3♦ P 2♠ P P 3NT
	W banditos ♠ QJ4 ♥ J10 ♦ A752 ♣ J874	E Treetops38 ♠ K763 ♥ A5432 ♦ 4 ♣ 953
	S fatcat4399 ♠ A10852 ♥ K86 ♦ K9 ♣ A106	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

For those playing 2 over 1 game force, the North hand is quite problematic after partner opens 1♠ and rebids an ambiguous 2♣. You need to have sophisticated methods to enable you to show an invitational hand in diamonds clubs or hearts. Glen Holman (North) and David Beinart (South) had methods to show an invitational hand with diamonds and this allowed them to get to the good 3NT contract. This contract was reached 3 times in the open and only once in the Women's. The auctions at the other tables where 3NT was reached were not convincing.

#82462 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Qualifiers 10					2/10	0.42	26.25	
1	2024-04-16 15:15	imtiazi1	horace1	goldbar larryc777	2♦N+3	-150	7.75	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-16 15:11	cruisey	KingZlot	NoahApteke drowzee	3♦N+2	-150	7.75	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-16 15:24	Dunx	judeap	alonap craigy52	3NN+1	-630	-4.75	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-16 15:14	kgsmith	castelein	bkpsc diniar	3NS+1	-630	-4.75	Movie or Lin
5	2024-04-16 15:15	glensa	fatcat4399	Treetops38 banditos	3NN+2	-660	-6.00	Movie or Lin

#82636 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Qualifiers 10					2/10	0.42	15.50	
1	2024-04-16 15:08	sweetpea50	Tan 18	hewey7 trishc	3NN+2	660	10.75	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-16 15:11	Marykins	rix181	peta_b FRANKIEJ	2NS+3	210	-1.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-16 15:13	foaden	kangy	deebie2 Shai007	2♦N+3	150	-3.25	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-16 15:12	cassandrax	JillyRabz	sharrie lvsrn	3♦N+2	150	-3.25	Movie or Lin
5	2024-04-16 15:14	sternz	carol2007	nicolap valfb	2♦N+3	150	-3.25	Movie or Lin

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">11</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div>		N ♠ 9764 ♥ QJ7 ♦ AJ105 ♣ 82	<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></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♣	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	P	2♦	2♥	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																				
			1♣																				
P	1♠	P	2♣																				
P	P	2♦	2♥																				
P	P	P																					
W ♠ KQ53 ♥ K103 ♦ 73 ♣ J754		E ♠ A1082 ♥ 952 ♦ KQ642 ♣ 9																					
	S ♠ J ♥ A864 ♦ 98 ♣ AKQ1063		2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

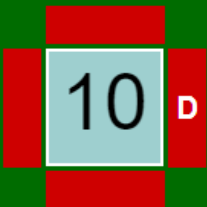
Defence is the most difficult aspect of this game. It needs players to be able to visualise the opponents' hands, count tricks and points. This hand is quite instructive.

West led the 7♦ ducked by declarer (South) and won with the Q♦. East switched to the singleton club which South won and played a heart to the queen. Declarer then played a club to the king (East correctly did not ruff) and then played another heart towards the queen leaving this position with West on play.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">11</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">D</div>		N ♠ 9764 ♥ QJ7 ♦ AJ105 ♣ 82	<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></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♣	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	P	2♦	2♥	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																				
			1♣																				
P	1♠	P	2♣																				
P	P	2♦	2♥																				
P	P	P																					
W ♠ KQ53 ♥ K103 ♦ 73 ♣ J754	♥ 7 ♥ K ♥ 2 ♥ 6	E ♠ A1082 ♥ 952 ♦ KQ642 ♣ 9																					
	S ♠ J ♥ A864 ♦ 98 ♣ AKQ1063		2♥ S NS: 3 EW: 2																				

West knows that South started with 6 clubs and 4 Hearts and probably 2 diamonds. The only hope for the defence therefore is to stop declarer from enjoying the long club suit. The way to do this is to attack entries to declarer's hand by forcing declarer to ruff spades. (try it – once declarer has ruffed a spade, the clubs can no longer be enjoyed).

West fell from grace at this point by switching to a club. This defence did not paralyze declarer. The defenders got their ruff, but it was a loser. South now had no problems wrapping up 9 tricks. This was worth 4.75 imps to N/S whereas beating 2♥ would have gained 1 imp.

		N alonap ♠ KQ6432 ♥ K ♦ A9 ♣ 8765	<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>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♦	P	1♥	1♠	P	P	2♠	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P
		W	N	E	S																		
		1♦	P																				
1♥	1♠	P	P																				
2♠	P	2NT	P																				
3NT	P	P	P																				
W horace1 ♠ J ♥ AQ64 ♦ KQ62 ♣ J1092	E imtiaz1 ♠ A108 ♥ 85 ♦ 108753 ♣ AK3																						
		S craigy52 ♠ 975 ♥ J109732 ♦ J4 ♣ Q4	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0																				

Alon Apteker (North) made an excellent false card when Craig led a low spade against East's 3NT. He played the K♠ on the first trick. When he got in with the A♦ he returned a low spade and East had a nasty guess which he got wrong and played the 8 of spades. This allowed the defence to win 5 spades and 1 diamond for +200 and 10.75 imps.

	N Treetops38 ♠ KQ6432 ♥ K ♦ A9 ♣ 8765	<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>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♦	P	1♥	1♠	P	P	X	P	1NT	P	2♠	P	3♦	P	5♦	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																						
		1♦	P																							
1♥	1♠	P	P																							
X	P	1NT	P																							
2♠	P	3♦	P																							
5♦	P	P	P																							
W drowzee ♠ J ♥ AQ64 ♦ KQ62 ♣ J1092	E NoahApteke ♠ A108 ♥ 85 ♦ 108753 ♣ AK3																									
	S banditos ♠ 975 ♥ J109732 ♦ J4 ♣ Q4	5♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0																								

On the same hand, Noah Apteker and Robert Stephens conducted the excellent auction above to reach the superior 5♦ contract which made with an overtrick when Noah dropped the doubleton Q♣. The key bid was West's bid of 2♠ and when East did not repeat NT he knew that the spades were stopped only once. This was worth 7.75 imps.

Beware of playing NT when you have a singleton in a suit bid by vulnerable opponents.



Noah Apteker who is leading the field with Robert Stephens, is seen here playing monitored from his home in the USA. He is also the youngest competitor in the field. His age is too low to publish in a bridge bulletin where the average readers' age is over 70.

D 8	N Dunx	W	N	E	S
	♠ K8543 ♥ 10852 ♦ 84 ♣ 42	1♣ P 2NT P 3♦ P 6♣ P	P P P P	1♠ P 3♣ P 3NT P P	P P P P
W craigy52		E alonap			
♠ Q2 ♥ AJ3 ♦ AJ2 ♣ AQJ53		♠ AJ109 ♥ 7 ♦ KQ76 ♣ K1087			
	S judeap				
	♠ 76 ♥ KQ964 ♦ 10953 ♣ 96				
		6♣ W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

Alon Apteker (East) and Craig Gower (West) were the only pair in both the open and women's events to get to the second best contract of 6♣. After West's strong 2NT rebid, Alon made a mild slam try with clubs which Craig had no problem accepting with this maximum, 5 clubs and good controls.

The best contract is 7♣ which is very difficult to reach as you need to know that there are 4 diamond tricks which will allow you to pitch a spade loser. Note that 6♣ is superior to 6NT which requires the spade finesse after a heart lead. So those who bid 6NT got a bit lucky on the board.

This hand emphasises the point made previously that suit contracts (here a 5-4 fit) are frequently safer and better than NT contracts.

#82462 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Qualifiers 10						2/10	0.42	26.25
1	2024-04-16 15:19	glensa	fatcat4399	Treetops38	banditos 6NW=		990	6.75 Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-16 15:19	kgsmith	castelein	bkpsc	diniar 6NW=		990	6.75 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-16 15:29	Dunx	judeap	alonap	craigy52 6♣W+1		940	5.25 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-16 15:24	imtiazi1	horace1	goldbar	larryc777 5♣W+2		440	-5.75 Movie or Lin
5	2024-04-16 15:21	cruisey	KingZlot	NoahApteke	drowzee 6NW-1		-50	-13.00 Movie or Lin

#82636 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Qualifiers 10						1/10	0.60	23.75
1	2024-04-16 15:14	Marykins	rix181	peta_b	FRANKIEJ 6NW+1		1020	8.25 Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-16 15:22	foaden	kangy	deebie2	Shai007 6NW+1		1020	8.25 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-16 15:16	cassandrax	JillyRabz	sharrie	lvsrn 3NW+3		490	-4.75 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-16 15:21	sternz	carol2007	nicolap	valfb 3NW+2		460	-5.50 Movie or Lin
5	2024-04-16 15:14	sweetpea50	Tan 18	hewey7	trishc 5♣W+2		440	-6.25 Movie or Lin