

## **SABF Open and Women's Trials Bulletin Number 3**

### **From the Editor: Deirdre Ingersent**

Further impressions of the SA TRIALS to date -

The number of boards being played by the Open teams and the Women's teams are not the same leading to one group finishing while the others are still playing. This is trick because the need to postmortem and fetch refreshments are uppermost in the minds of some, while others are still struggling with their concentration and still have many more boards left in their match. Although the two groups are playing different boards, I am sure it must be distracting to hear loud conversations about the bidding of a particular hand right near your table. However, in general it was very, very quiet again in the playing area - even the click from a computer when a card is being put out has to be switched off!

Perhaps a comforting thought for us lesser bridge mortals! Even the top players make silly mistakes, e.g. a slam not bid or worse still a slam bid which is not there, or a claim made wrongly and there were not enough tricks. The TD must be called and obviously the score is adjusted.

In the Women's Section there was frustration that alerting of bids was not done, or that the explanations took too long thereby using up valuable time. Systems do vary, it appears, even with these top players. The overall match time allowance is of course correct for the number of boards played, but some pairs need all the time while others play more quickly, so I can understand that waiting for an explanation of an opponent's bid would be irritating.

As an outsider I can see Bernard is working extremely hard at all this!

The Women's semifinal consisting of 4 segments of 14 boards each came to an end today. It was exciting as particularly in 1 match, Nestoridis versus Foaden, the scores were very close right to the end. Nestoridis came through victorious aided by the healthy carry over from the initial round robin of 14.1 imps. The final score was 139.1 to 126. The Bernstein team continued their strong winning streak and beat Zimet 144.1 to 94. Both losing teams put up a good fight and can proud of their performances.

Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	C/O	Pos.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4
					IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs
1	Zimet	94		2	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">33</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
2	Bernstein	144.1	8.1	1	<a href="#">31</a>	<a href="#">39</a>	<a href="#">37</a>	<a href="#">29</a>

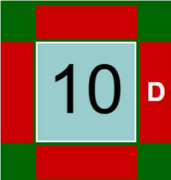
Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	C/O	Pos.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4
					IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs
1	Nestoridis	139.1	14.1	1	<a href="#">41</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">41</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
2	Foaden	126		2	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">49</a>	<a href="#">40</a>	<a href="#">18</a>

The Open round robin was completed today. The Eber team and Cruise teams emerged victorious and the Grant team was eliminated.

The winning teams in the both the Open and Women's will battle it out for 2 days playing a knockout of 96 boards. The Eber team will have a carryover of 16.1 imps from the round robin and the Nestoridis team will have a carryover of 1.43 imps from their round robin.

**GREAT NEWS! The Open and Women's final will be broadcast on BBO vugraph from 10h00 tomorrow and Thursday. Please support this initiative. I'm sure you will enjoy the action.**

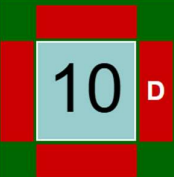

## A Bidding and Play Problem

	<b>N</b> goldbar ♠ 8642 ♥ 54 ♦ J432 ♣ J52	<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>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♣	1♥	2♥	P	3♣	P	3♥	P	3♠	P	4♠	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
		1♣	1♥																			
2♥	P	3♣	P																			
3♥	P	3♠	P																			
4♠	P	P	P																			
<b>W</b> cruisey ♠ AJ10 ♥ Q8 ♦ Q975 ♣ A1043	<b>E</b> KingZlot ♠ K753 ♥ J106 ♦ AK8 ♣ Q98																					
	<b>S</b> larryc777 ♠ Q9 ♥ AK9732 ♦ 106 ♣ K76	4♠ E      NS: 0 EW: 0																				

Andrew Cruise and Saul Berman did well on this hand from the Open Round Robin. The bidding and play were interesting.

After Saul (East) opened 1♣ and Larry Chemaly (South) overcalled 1♥, Andrew made a cue bid raise. The first bidding decision came at this point. Some may disagree with me, but I believe balanced hands should be played in NT if there is no major suit fit. Although J10X cannot be considered a stopper, sometimes a stopper is as good as it sounds and even if partner cannot help, the suit may be blocked. My choice on Saul's hand would be to bid 2NT. I would expect partner to bid 3♣ with long clubs and less than an opening hand and he would not just bid 3NT with better hands unless he is also balanced. Saul elected to bid 3♣ and Andrew cued 3♥ looking for a stopper. Now 3♠ revealed their 4-3 fit and they played in 4♠.

Larry led AK♥ and continued hearts which Saul ruffed with 10♠. He now got back to his hand with a diamond and finessed the J♠ and cashed the ace. He noted that South followed with the 9 and Queen of spades. A diamond to the King was followed by a finesse of the 9♣ which lost to the Jack. North returned a club and this was the end position (played cards are greyed out)

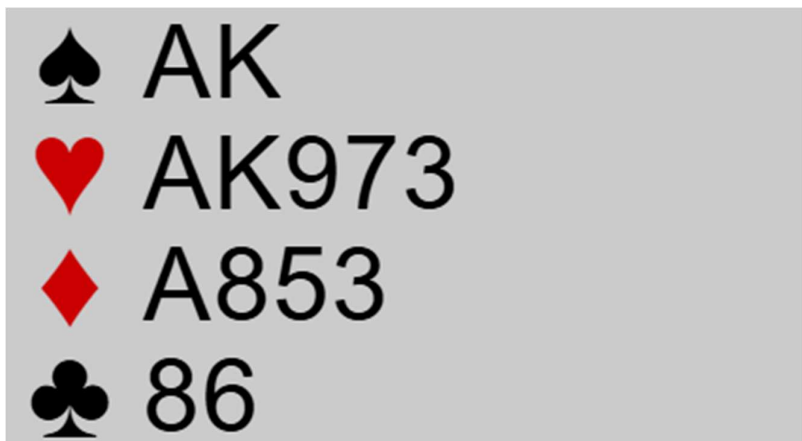
		<b>N</b> goldbar		<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b>			
		♠ 8642 ♥ 54 ♦ J432 ♣ J52		2♥ P 3♥ P 4♠ P		1♣ 1♥ 3♣ P 3♠ P P P	
<b>W</b> cruisey				<b>E</b> KingZlot			
♠ AJ10 ♥ Q8 ♦ Q975 ♣ A1043				♠ K753 ♥ J106 ♦ AK8 ♣ Q98			
		<b>S</b> larryc777		4♠ E      NS: 3 EW: 6			
		♠ Q9 ♥ AK9732 ♦ 106 ♣ K76					

North had to follow to the diamond on which Saul pitched the Q♣. with the lead now in the West hand, Saul had to make both the King and 7 of spades. He lost 2 hearts and 1 club. Very well played! This gained 10 imps when in the other match, E/W played in 4♣ making 10 tricks.

A bit of sour grapes from me. Playing with myself, (much more fun than playing with anyone else) I would have got to 3NT making easily when I went with the odds and guessed to play the overcaller for the Q♠. (4 spade tricks, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 1 club). Admittedly, it would have been a rotten pairs score against Saul and Andrew's 4♠ making.

Thanks to James Grant for pointing out this interesting hand to me.

## Play Hand



Your sophisticated bidding system gets you to what is possibly the best game contract of 4♠ on these hands. The opponents have been silent throughout the auction. You get the lead of a low diamond. How do you play from here?

Your first thought might be to draw trumps and try to make 4 spade tricks, ♥AK, ♣AK and ♦A. Only 9 tricks but if trumps break 3-3, I might be able to make some club tricks as well (probably end up with 12 tricks). Not great odds, however. Can we do better?

I think the best line is to play on a cross-ruff. Win the A♦, low club to Ace, AK♥ and another low club. If this is ruffed on your right it will be on air and you can then still play the draw trumps line. If not ruffed, I plan to ruff 2 clubs in dummy and ruff diamonds or hearts back to my hands. I will make 2 spade ruffs in

dummy, 4 spade in my hand, ♥AK, ♣ AK, ♦ A. Total = 11 tricks. Can anyone suggest a better line?

The whole hand

D 12	N imtiaz1	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK ♥ AK973 ♦ A853 ♣ 86	P	2♣	P	2♦
W bkpsc	♠ Q543 ♥ J1082 ♦ 742 ♣ J5	P	2♠	P	2NT
		P	3♦	X	3♠
S em_ge	♠ J10976 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 ♣ AK10972	P	4♠	P	P
		E diniar			
		♠ 82 ♥ Q64 ♦ KQJ106 ♣ Q43			
		4♠ S		NS: 0 EW: 0	

At the table, declarer tried to draw trumps and was 1 down.

## Pesky Pre-empts

<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>		<b>N</b> diniar ♠ AK8 ♥ AJ108 ♦ AQJ763 ♣	<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>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S				P	3♣	X	P	3♥	P	6♥	P	P	P			
W	N	E	S																				
			P																				
3♣	X	P	3♥																				
P	6♥	P	P																				
P																							
<b>W</b> craigy52 ♠ 65 ♥ 9 ♦ 1092 ♣ AQJ9643		<b>E</b> alonap ♠ Q1092 ♥ KQ2 ♦ 854 ♣ K82																					
	<b>S</b> bkpsc ♠ J743 ♥ 76543 ♦ K ♣ 1075		6♥ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																				

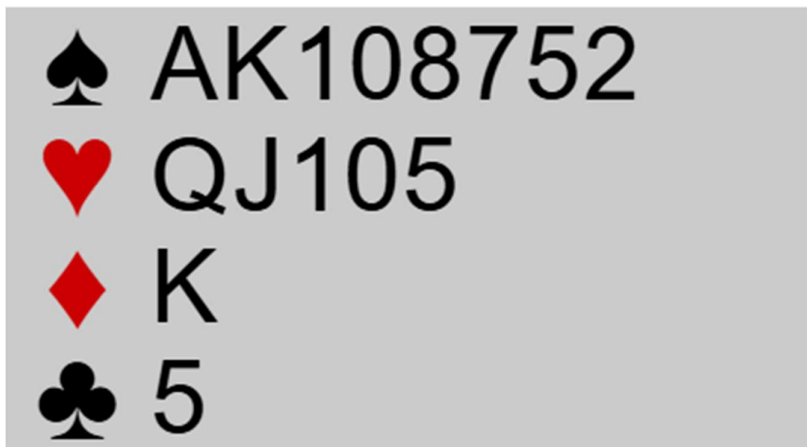
Diniar Minwalla sitting North was a little unlucky on this hand when he guessed to bid 6♥ after he doubled 3♣ by West and partner bid hearts. With both heart honours offside, he could not make it. An improvement on the auction might have been for him to bid 4♣ cue bid after partner bid 3♥. South should cooperate with 4♦ cue as he could have nothing for his 3♥ bid and he has a 5<sup>th</sup> heart and the K♦. It would now be reasonable to try for slam. In the other room, the first few bids were the same but North judged to just bid 4♥ which made easily. Bad breaks often occur after a pre-empt and a conservative approach is frequently the winning action.

14 <sup>D</sup>		<b>N</b> sternz	W N E S			
		♠ K8432	3NT 4♠ 3♣ 3♠			
		♥ 9654	5♣ P P P			
		♦ J3				
		♣ A8				
<b>W</b> sharrie			<b>E</b> microz			
♠ AQ			♠			
♥ AK82			♥ J7			
♦ K1086			♦ 9752			
♣ Q65			♣ KJ109732			
		<b>S</b> Stanlau				
		♠ J109765				
		♥ Q103				
		♦ AQ4				
		♣ 4				
				5♣ E NS: 0 EW: 0		

An aggressive 3♠ overcall by South after East's opening 3♣ in the Women's semifinal struck gold when partner could bid 4♠ over West's 3NT. West was now unkeen to take a probable small plus on defence and bid 5♣. This auction was duplicated at a second table in the women's. I wonder why the West players didn't make the more obvious bid of 4NT rather than 5♣. After all, making 10 tricks is easier than 11. After the expected spade lead, west can visualise making 2 spades, 2 hearts and at 6 club tricks = 10. 5♣ had 3 losers. To come to 11 tricks in clubs, declarer would need both the spade finesse and the diamond Ace onside.

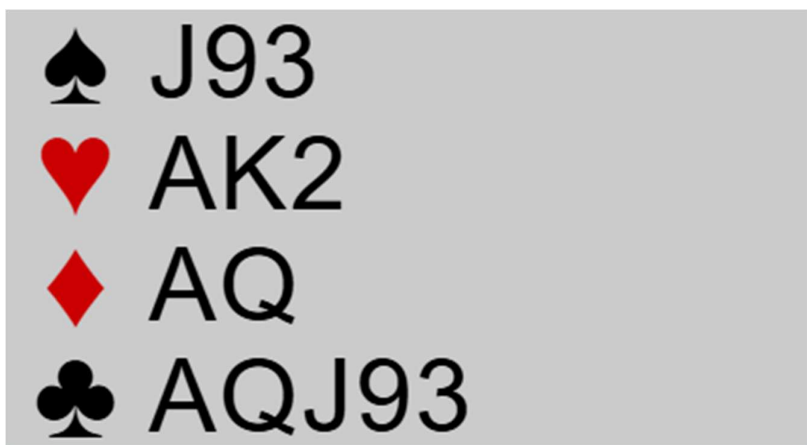


## Keycard Blackwood



South Africans love bidding keycard blackwood even on hands where it doesn't help a jot. Let's test our knowledge of how it works. Suppose partner supports spades and then goes 4NT blackwood. What would you respond with the hand above?

In all 4 women's matches, the players holding the hand above hand responded 5♥ showing 2 keycards without the queen. Wrong!!!. When you have extra length and known 10-card fit (partner supported spades), the extra length entitles you to show this as having the queen of trumps. Remember this for next time and you might get to 7 when it's on. Partner's hand was



## Good players don't give up

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span>  <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">D</span> </div>	<b>N</b> symigirl ♠ K3 ♥ K ♦ 85 ♣ AKJ87532	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P   5♣   P   P P
	<b>W</b> peta_b ♠ Q87 ♥ J97 ♦ QJ764 ♣ 94	<b>E</b> FRANKIEJ ♠ A10954 ♥ Q843 ♦ A2 ♣ Q6
	<b>S</b> lvsrn ♠ J62 ♥ A10652 ♦ K1093 ♣ 10	5♣ N      NS: 0 EW: 0

Tas Nestoridis had to play 5♣ after the getting the most accurate defence of the A♦ followed by another. Without this start, 11 tricks are easy - 8 clubs, 2 hearts and 1 diamond. She won the King and decided that the A♠ was likely to offside. She proceeded to run all her clubs and East was faced with a difficult discarding problem. When she came down to a singleton A♠, Tas read the situation perfectly and exited with a low spade. East had to play a heart and that was 11 tricks. The defence was imperfect but discarding is often the most difficult part of this game.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; font-size: 2em;">1</div>		<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">N rixi181</div> <p>♠ 74 ♥ 3 ♦ A62 ♣ AKJ10762</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">5♣</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		5♣	X	P	5♥	P	P	P
W	N	E	S												
	5♣	X	P												
5♥	P	P	P												
<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;">W deebee2</div> <p>♠ 1065 ♥ AKJ75 ♦ 8754 ♣ 8</p>		<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;">E Shai007</div> <p>♠ AK82 ♥ 10862 ♦ KQJ93 ♣</p>													
	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;">S swentzel</div> <p>♠ QJ93 ♥ Q94 ♦ 10 ♣ Q9543</p>	<div style="background-color: lightblue; padding: 2px;">5♥ W      NS: 0 EW: 0</div>													

Diana Balkin and Sharon Izerel coped well with the unusual pre-empt of 5♣ with the North cards. Why do I say unusual? It is generally not recommended to pre-empt with opening hands.

Firstly, Sharon made an aggressive takeout double of 5♣ and Diana was happy to bid her very good 5 card heart suit. Diana made short work of the play by finessing the hearts for no losers and then she lost the ace of diamonds. +480 went well with -100 in 5♣X in the other room – 9 imps.

## Experts also make mistakes

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">19</span>  <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">D</span> </div>	<b>N</b> imtiaz1 ♠ Q983 ♥ K97 ♦ ♣ KQ10642	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1♣ P 1♠ 2♣ 2♦ P 3♦ P	P 2♣ P P	1♥ X 3♣	P P P P	P P P P
<b>W</b> NoahApteke ♠ AK742 ♥ J ♦ AJ1063 ♣ A3		<b>E</b> drowzee ♠ J ♥ AQ854 ♦ KQ72 ♣ J87			
	<b>S</b> em_ge ♠ 1065 ♥ 10632 ♦ 9854 ♣ 95				
		3♦ W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

I told Robert who was sitting East that I just couldn't resist reporting this hand – I don't want to disappoint him.

Noah and he had a spectacular misunderstanding leading to disaster. The auction is complex and I won't bore you with the details other than to say that the partnership was unclear whether West had shown 11-13 balanced or 17+ any shape. This led to the ironclad contract of 3♦ when 6♦ was laydown. You might think this was a big loss for their side but would you believe they gained 7 imps on the board. How is this possible? In the other room, E/W overstretched to 7♦ down 1. The lesson to be learnt is do not bid grand slams unless you are close to 100% certain you have 13 tricks. It is not unusual, even in the best circles, to find that your counterparts have stopped in game or even a partscore as illustrated here. Psychologically, this hand can be devastating unless the pair has very good temperament. This is why I dislike the current practice of having barometer scoring (the boards are scored immediately and you don't have to wait till the

end to see your results). I was almost alone with the view when a survey was performed by The Links Bridge Club on this issue.

**Submitted by Bernard Donde**