



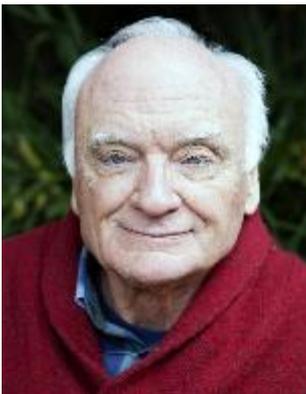
PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

Edition 4
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Special Winter Edition



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Editor: Stephen Rosenberg
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STRAIGHT FROM THE SABF PRESIDENT

The other day I was reflecting on the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything, as is my wont and I said to myself "Why am I wasting my time on this when there is a whole bunch of paid up SABF members out there who could be doing it for me?" So I have decided to set you all a puzzle.

- **The Puzzle**

"What is the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything?"

- **Rules of the Competition**

The first correct answer will win a prize. Possibly the second and third correct answers too. If you are related to me, or just a good friend you will win a prize even if you get the wrong answer. If you can say "It's a braw bricht moonlicht nict" you will win a prize even if you are not in the top three, but you must have the right answer. If you have the right answer, but you're not a paid-up SABF member, you will not get a prize.

OK, so much for the rules. I suppose you also want a clue.

- **A Clue**

"The answer my friend lies blowing in the wind. But wait a minute, that's someone else's line. Try again.

"The answer my friend is in plain sight

If you search, indeed you might

Find it there on our website"

Well, that's not much of a clue but it's a nice rhyme.

- **Prizes**

There may not be any worthwhile prizes; perhaps all you will get is your photo in our next magazine, because between you and me, the members of the SABF committee are a tight-fisted bunch of individuals. But I promise I'm working on it!

So, please submit your answers in 200 words or less by email to support@sabfonline.co.za to reach there by no later than Sunday 30th September! The winning answers, if there are any, and assuming that they are fit to publish in a family-oriented publication, will appear in our next edition.

Good hunting!

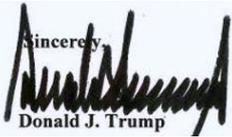
James Grant



A TWEET FROM THE OTHER PRESIDENT

Howdy again folks! Hell! I never thought being President of the great United States of America was going to prove more difficult than hosting The Apprentice. At the beginning of the year the Russians were our best pals and North Korea was the enemy. We made buttons for all our delegates at the Republican Convention that read "We're rootin' for Putin!". Well, we had to recall those and now we've got buttons reading "Holy Moly, we love Roly Poly!". Just goes to show how quickly things change in the world of politics. Just back from a visit to that quaint little ol' country they call England. I mistakenly thought they all spoke American over there, like don't they watch TV, duh? I had no idea what Theresa May was talking about – like what the hell does Brexit mean? But Boris has recommended me his barber next time I'm there, so the visit wasn't completely wasted.

Right now we're in the middle of a trade war, the press is still printing fake news, and we've still gotta decide which country to nuke. But first things first. Yessiree, I've had the US Senate pulling an all-nighter trying to solve the President's Puzzle. If I don't win a prize I'm gonna fire someone. And what's with the moonlight nicht bit? Guess that's the Afrikaans all you guys speak over there....well, good luck to y' all, but don't be surprised if 1st prize isn't headin' this way.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

YES, 81,14%

Wednesday 27th June was much like any other Wednesday evening at the ABC, which meets every week at the Orchards Bridge Centre in suburban Johannesburg – a snug little pair's contest that attracts some strong players. Until the results came out! It is a real achievement for anyone to win with 81,14%, which is just what **Tom Collinge** and **Steven Cohn** did. Congratulations!



Tom (left) and Steven (Right)

MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN!



The week-end of the 1st and 2nd September sees the staging of the GBU **RED POINT** Spring Pairs' event being held at The Links. This replaces the old mini-congress and is in effect the Gauteng Provincial Pairs' Championships. (See page 4 for the Teams' results).

Entry via the GBU website; details on the same website; queries by WhatsApp to Deirdre Ingersent on 082 430 4140.

This edition of The Bridge, as well as many other SABF projects, are made possible in part by the annual sponsorship from



THE KNYSNA PRE-OYSTER!

This successful yearly national bridge tournament used to be held during the Knysna Oyster Festival period. Due to popular demand by both out-of-town and local players it was held at the bridge club's own venue: the Knysna Angling Club. For many years the organisers had to take all the equipment to the Brenton Hall as the Angling Club was not available, partly for its own fishing competition and for lack of parking facilities during the cycling and running events.

Knysna Duplicate Bridge Club thanks Trevor Cooper for his help and patience to assist with the planning and set-up, the catering and co-ordination during the weekend. KDBC also thanks the sponsors Warwick Wealth for the prize money, City Lodge Group for their generous accommodation vouchers and Knysna Superspar, Standard Bank, Café Mario, Blend Restaurant, Bosuns Pub and Grill, Final Cut, Knysna Elephant Park, and Jukani as well as the KDBC members for help and sponsorships. Mama Persella provided an excellent Lasagna lunch, Joyce Miles the most delicious trifles, fruit and vegetables three hearty soups.

As a first in South Africa, Steve Collinson of N2RS, an event manager and Knysna guest house owner presented the players with a bridge trivia quiz during the lunch break on Saturday which the players thoroughly enjoyed. Rob Stephens and Lotte Sorensen scored 18 out of 20 and Mike Wright and Viv Lloyd came second.

The mixed bunch of players came from the Southern Cape as well as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Bedford and St Francis; from novices to our S.A. champs. Noah Apteker, our youngest S.A. teams champion played with Bernard Donde, Alon Apteker played with Sven Bjerregaard, Jude Apteker played with the youngest brother Aras (11). This is why the prizes for winning were staggered into groups:

Overall winners:

- 1) Bernard Donde and Noah Apteker (both GBU; Noah at King David High School, Linksfield)
- 2) Alon Apteker (GBU) and Sven Bjerregaard (WCBU and Sweden)
- 3) Rob Stephens and Lotte Sorensen (both GBU)

B Segment:

- 1) Judy Deuchar (SCBU) and Trish Curzon (GBU)
- 2) Di Sendin and Jane Underwood (both WCBU)
- 3) Koos Bezuidenhout and Bernard Richards (both SCBU)

C Segment:

- 1) Ian and Joan Huskisson (both SCBU)
- 2) Elsabe and Pat Verner (NGBU)
- 3) Jill de la Rey and Louise More (both SCBU)

For the full results consult www.bridgewebs.com/knysna or contact Heidi Atkinson, President of the Southern Cape Bridge Union on heidi@hidealoerie.co.za

PHOTO GALLERY



Four Aptekers for the price of one!



Joan and Ian Huskisson – C Segment winners

Please diarise the 2019 Pre-Oyster Bridge Festival: 14 to 16 June!

25 IMPS AT STAKE!

KZNBU Mini-Congress: Teams, Session 1, Match 2, board 22



From the pen of
Peter Bircher

22	♠ Q10854	Dir: E
	♥ K7654	Vul: E-W
	♦ 652	
♠ J	♠ AK976	
♥ A	♥ Q10932	
♦ AQJ1072	♦ 5	
♣ AKQ73	♣ 94	
	♠ 32	
5	♥ J8	
21	♦ K98643	
5	♣ J108	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	5	4	4	6
W	5	5	4	4	6

This gem cropped up during the Teams Mini- Congress held recently in Durban. We were defending 3NT by West which ended unremarkably with our opponent making an over-trick for 630.

However, our partners arrived at the optimum contract of 6NT. I say optimum, but this was no laydown!

Make it and we would have a net gain of 810 on the deal (1 440 - 630) which would have given us 13 IMP's. Go down and we lose 730 (-630 - 100) which would have us score -12, a total swing of 25 IMP's!

The five of spades was led.

Even playing it double-dummy, it's not easy to spot the winning line to make twelve tricks on this classic misfit. You have only one entry to dummy, the spade, so you have to go up with an honour and cash the other, there and then, discarding a diamond.

Now you play a diamond and cover whatever South puts in! The easiest for declarer is if south plays low then the ♦7 is played, winning. Yes, a DEEP finesse and hardly obvious without the advantage of a peek.

To give declarer any real difficulty assume South puts in the ♦8 and declarer plays the ♦10. After finding the missing clubs breaking 3-3, things start to brighten. You cash the fourth club to reach this position:

22	♠ Q108	
	♥ K76	
	♦	
♠ A	♠ 976	
♥ AQJ7	♥ Q109	
♣ 3	♦	
	♠ J8	
	♥ K964	
	♣	

On the last club South has a choice of discard:

- If a **diamond** is discarded, south is left with the K-9-6 while North has the A-Q-J-7 and the play of any honour followed by another honour secures three diamond tricks.
- If a **heart** is discarded, declarer must cash the ace of hearts, removing South's safe exit card. He then throws him in with the Queen (or Jack) and south has to play a diamond from 9-6-4 into A-J-7 and declarer takes the remaining diamonds.

Sad to say, and quite understandably, our West partner failed to make the slam.

Saturday 15th July was a normal Saturday at BRIDGE@ORCHARDS except that it was the day before the 2018 Wimbledon's men's' final.



So, this meant a "Go Kevin" poster and strawberries and cucumber sandwiches for tea!



The 2018 GBU Open Team Trials were held earlier this month, and this fourteen-team tournament yielded a resounding victory in the Medwin section for the Gower team of Craig Gower, Alon and Noah Apteker and Hennie Fick with nearly 106 VPs over the six rounds. They were followed by Val Bloom's team with Val herself, Tas Nestoridis, Robert Stephens, Lotte Sorensen and Jude Apteker on 74½ VPs. In the larger Berkowitz competition, Lex van Vught's team with Lex, Jenni Matisonn, Joy Rothenburg and Sam Trocki triumphed with 66 VPs ahead of the Deirdre Ingersent team with Helen Roberts, Bride Bullen-Smith and Paul van der Wal on just under 64 points.

SOME OF THIS, SOME OF THAT

ACOL REMINDER IN RHYME

by Rob Davies (Zimbabwe)
submitted by Shirley Glyn

Here is everything you need to know about bidding in one poem

With 12 or more points I'm required to speak
And mention a suit that is not very weak
With 5 cards or longer I need not be cute
I merely open with one of that suit
But with a 4-card major, ah there's the rub
I know I must open so I'll just say "One Club"
With 15-17, "One No Trump" will do
And with 21 or more, I'll open with two.

When the opponents have opened, now I have
trouble

I have an opening bid and I say so by "Double"
If the opponents have opened, my back's to the
wall

I have good points and length, so I must Overcall

My partner has opened and I'm in a fix
Because I must Pass with less points than six
But if my count is 6 points to 10

I must respond once, but need not again

Now 11-12 points is pretty nice

I will plan to respond, not once but twice
With 13 or more points, I would be to blame
If I let the bid end before we reach game.

THE JOYS OF SOCIAL BRIDGE



THANK YOU, MR TD



On a Saturday afternoon some time ago, as the Tournament Director, I was called to a table in one of the lower sections at The Links. There I found three players each sitting with two cards, but East only had one! Oh dear! I established that East had not counted her cards, and I explained, as kindly as I could, that I would have to award an adjusted score - 60% to North-South, but only 40% to East-West as the offenders in this case.

"Oh, thank you" gushed West. "Thank you?" queried I. "Yes" replied West. "It's the best score we've had all afternoon".

Stephen Rosenberg

DO YOU REMEMBER ...

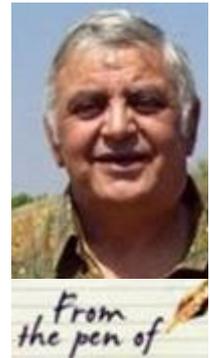
the one about the two LOLs who had been partnering each other at the bridge table for at least 35 years?



Here they are with two of their friends, and I overhear LOL-1 say, plaintively "I know we've been playing together forever, but I really can't remember your name?" I see LOL-2 glare at her, and perplexed, replies after a lengthy pause for thought "How soon do you need to know?"

SID'S QUIZ – A DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

You are sitting East and arrive at a contract of 6D. Imagine that East finds the best lead, the DT. How does 6D make? Explain trick by trick please.



Sid Ismail

Solution at the foot of this page

A TRICK IN TIME OR MASSAGING A FLAT HAND!



Barbara Smith

One of the thrills of playing in a pairs' tournament is the thrill of pitting one's skills against the rest of the field and coming out tops. As is often the case, our top on this hand was earned through both a degree of luck and capitalising on an opponent's error!

W	N	E	5
P	1C	1H	2D
P	25	P	3NT
P	P	P	

	k952 t84 A3 AKQ6	
T64 A9753 KJ7 72		A83 Q2 9654 T943
	QJ7 KJ6 QT82 J8S	

The bidding was fairly straightforward. The 2S rebid by my partner North showed at least 16 points. With my double heart stopper, I bid happily to 3NT.

My first bit of luck stemmed from East's somewhat dubious overcall of 1H, for West obliged her partner (or so she thought) by leading the HQ, assuring me two heart tricks! I won with the HK and drove out the AS. West continued with a second heart, and East, after some hesitation, allowed me to win – a mistake, as the hand was now ripe for an end-play.

I cashed the top spades and four clubs and East had to find three discards. He could afford only one diamond and had to discard two small hearts, leaving himself with the AH and KD and JD. I was watching then discards like a hawk and could see him squirming as I next played dummy's HT. He had to win with the AH and play diamonds into my ten-ace. I made 11 tricks for +660; most other pairs made only 9 or 10 tricks!

You'll notice that, if East had won the second heart trick with the HA, and exited with a heart, he could no longer be end-played, and I would have had to give him a diamond trick, which would have held me to 10 tricks and +430.

SID'S QUIZ: THE SOLUTION

SOLUTION: 12 tricks could be made by either ruffing hearts in dummy or by setting up the clubs. Since this was a double-dummy problem, setting the clubs up must be superior, since with careful play you will make all 13 tricks!

- Tr 1: Win DK (NOT the DA in dummy!)
- Tr 2: CA
- Tr 3: CK
- Tr 4: Ruff a club with D2
- Tr 5: Diamond to ACE
- Tr 6: Ruff a club again

- Tr 7: HA
- Tr 8: Ruff a heart with DJ
- Tr 9: Good club - throw a heart
- Tr 10: Good club - throw a spade
- Tr 11-13: Trumps.

THE COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2018



*From
the pen of
Peter Ward*

The following players represented South Africa at the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships held earlier this year:

A team - Craig Gower and Peter Ward; Peta Balderson and Jenny Gautschi; Di Rosslee and Greg Hingle

B team - Bev Hewitt and Trish Crosse; Val Taylor and Patrick Hansen

(Unfortunately, despite efforts by Charles Page, the Australian convener, Jannie Blomerus could not get his visa and thus he and his partner, Andre van Niekerk sadly had to pull out of the B team.)

The event was held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre in Australia. This was also the same venue as the world renowned annual Gold Coast Bridge Convention, which was played immediately after the Commonwealth tournament. The Gold Coast Convention attracts an impressive number of some 1000 players from both Australia and many international countries.

The Gold Coast is a fast-growing, sprawling area with a number of canals. It has an international airport and attracts a number of Asian tourists. In many ways it is similar to the Durban beachfront with a number of high rise buildings. Members of the A team rented a house on one of canals in Broadbeach a couple of kilometres away from the Convention Centre. The members of the B team were located at separate venues. Val and Patrick joined the A team for a festive dinner at their house.

Members of the A team played in a warm up event at a local club in the Gold Coast. Di and Greg were the most successful of the SA pairs (6th place). The event was followed by a scrumptious dinner thereafter where we met people such as the well-known Australian player and author, Ron Klinger.

There were 36 teams in the tournament with a few invitational teams. The qualifiers were played on a Swiss team format. The A team had a slow start but then had some good wins including against the number one qualifier (an invitational side with the Hackett twins from England.) In the last qualifying round, we came up against Scotland, needing to beat them to qualify for the semi-finals but unfortunately the Scots gave us a good hiding. India was the eventual winner beating Australia in the final.



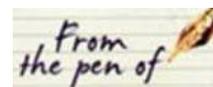
The team members, wearing their Citadel sponsored green shirts, also treated themselves to a sumptuous fish platter at a local restaurant.

The South African positions were Craig and Peter 7th, Peta and Jenny 16th, Bev and Trish 67th, Di and Greg 75th; and Val and Patrick 80th

All the players found the Australian hospitality fantastic and the overall organization impressive. The prize giving was preceded by an enjoyable show put on by Australian Indigenous People. It was great to see the respect Craig Gower has in Australia and due to this, the A team were invited to an Australian "Barbie" by one of the top administrators.

The next Commonwealth games are scheduled for Birmingham. They are planning to have the bridge at beautiful Stratford –upon-Avon.

WHEN TO SACRIFICE



Jeff Sapire

Your left-hand opponent deals and opens the bidding 1H and your partner makes a weak jump overcall of 3D. Your right-hand opponent bids 4D, showing a raise to 4H with opening bid values, and you, South, are looking at ♠xxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣Axxxx. Should you do anything? There are only two actions you can take – pass or bid 5D. Let's look at a typical layout:



Dlr: W Vul: ?	Kxx x AQTxxxx xx	
Axx AKxxxx J Jxx		QJxx QJxxx x KQx
	xxx x Kxxx Axxxx	

If you leave the opponents to play 4H they will make 10 tricks here, losing one spade, one diamond and one club. If you decide to bid 5D, then they will have to make a further decision – whether to bid 5H or else to double you in 5D (clearly everyone KNOWS your side is not going to MAKE a contract of 5D). Here we can see that if they do bid 5H they will go down, so their best action is to double your 5D, which is going to go two down, losing just two spades, one heart and one club

So clearly bidding 5D is the winning action. Despite the fact that your side only has 16 points, 5D is a very CHEAP save (or sacrifice). It's called a SAVE because you will have lost far less and saved money or points by bidding on.

In order to see exactly how worthwhile the save is, and whether you will show a profit, we need to know what the vulnerability is. Remember, there are four possibilities – neither side vulnerable, both sides vulnerable, we vulnerable and they not, they vulnerable and we not. Let's do the maths and see – with them making 4H and you going three off or two off.

1. Neither side vul: 4H -420 5Dx 3 off -500 5Dx 2 off -300
2. Both sides vul: 4H -620 5Dx 3 off -800 5Dx 2 off -500
3. We vul, they not: 4H -420 5Dx 3 off -800 5Dx 2 off -500
4. They vul, we not: 4H -620 5Dx 3 off -500 5Dx 2 off -300

What we see is that if we manage to only go 2 off, even doubled, we generally show a profit except when we are vulnerable, and they are not! If we go 3 off, then the only time we gain is when they are vulnerable, and we are not. But remember, because our side is pretty weak, very often it will be 3 off.

So the vulnerability is the most important factor in deciding whether or not to 'save'. And by far the best time is at what is called FAVOURABLE VULNERABILITY – when they are vulnerable, and we are not. The worst time is at UNFAVOURABLE VULNERABILITY – when we are vulnerable, and they are not. At a time of EQUAL VULNERABILITY, sacrificing may not be great, but is acceptable. Of course there are exceptions to these - with extremely distributional hands it may still pay to save at any vulnerability, but this won't happen often.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFITABLE SACRIFICING

Bear in mind that this is not an exact science – there are times when it looks reasonable to save, but it turns out too expensive. Or worse still, you discover that the opponents weren't making their game contract – this is called a PHANTOM sacrifice. But if you follow the guidelines set out below you will show a massive profit in the long run.

VULNERABILITY, VULNERABILITY, VULNERABILITY

Favourable is best, equal is acceptable. NEVER at unfavourable vulnerability.

A GOOD FIT WITH PARTNER (10 is the magic number)

It's no use saving unless you have a very good fit, and the rule of thumb is 4 or more trump support. Ideally, your side should have 10 or 11 combined trumps to do so. At favourable vulnerability, partner opens 3C, right hand opponent bids 4H; you have xxxxx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣Kx. Do not get involved here with only 2 trumps – your side only has a likely 9 card fit. But change to ♠xxxx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣Kxx and partner ought to make about 8 or 9 tricks. (continued on next page)

GOOD SHAPE

You MUST have a distributional hand – saving on balanced, flat hands costs a fortune. At favourable vulnerability, partner opens 3C, right hand opponent bids 4H. With ♠xxxx ♥xxx ♦KJx ♣Kxx, you have adequate support (your side has 10 trumps), but you have far too many losers with this flat hand, and bidding 5C, which is going to be doubled, will usually be very expensive.

VERY LITTLE DEFENSIVE VALUES

When you save, you are assuming that they would have made their contract, so your defensive prospects should be poor. At favourable vulnerability, partner opens 3C, , right hand opponent bids 4H; you have ♠x ♥AJxx ♦KQxxx ♣QJx. There is no need to save here – you have very good hearts – at least 2 tricks there, and a singleton to lead, plus some good diamonds. Looks like they won't be making 4H, which you are very happy to defend against, so pass and expect to beat them. But change your hand to ♠x ♥xxxx ♦Kxxxx ♣QJx and now saving with this almost defenceless hand looks much better.

THE 4, 5 AND 6 LEVEL

You can choose to save at any level, depending on the bidding – but of course the higher you go the more careful you need to be. If they are in 4H, if your side has spades, then bidding 4S may be nice and cheap. If they are in 4S, your side will have to go to the 5 level. If they have gone to 5 of a major, you will have to go to the 6 level in a minor

SAVING BY YOURSELF WITHOUT SUPPORT

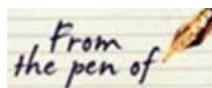
In some situations, you will have to make a decision without knowing if partner has any support. At favourable vulnerability, it goes 1S by left hand opponent, pass by partner, 4S by right hand opponent.

You have ♠x ♥x ♦KQJ10xxx ♣Axxx Once again, you have almost no defence to 4S, so sacrifice in 5D. You have seven tricks and if partner can help with a trick or so this should be ok.

YOU DECIDE TO SAVE, AND THEY BID AGAIN (Discipline is the key word)

The general rule here is similar to that of a pre-emptor, who never bids again. Say opponents bid to 4S in a competitive auction, and you elect to bid 5C. If they now push on to 5S, leave them alone and do not bid again. For all you know, they may have misjudged the situation and not be making 5S (if you bid 6C it will be a 'phantom sacrifice'). And lastly, a psychological issue – people hate being talked out of their contracts and love to keep on bidding, so let them. But, when in doubt, if it's close, then SAVE.

ELWYNNE FOR THE DEFENCE



Sid Ismail

Back in 1997, Elwynne and I were playing against our good friends KCR and FIAZA on OKB, when this hand came up. At Love all, the bidding was short-and-sweet: 1NT on Elwynne's left, 3NT from her right. I (West) led the ♥Q.

	Fiaza ♠ K 9 6 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q 8 7 5 3 ♣ J 8 7	
Sid ♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K T 6 ♣ T 9 3		Elwynne ♠ T 7 ♥ A 9 6 3 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 6 5 4 2
	KCR ♠ Q J 4 2 ♥ T 7 5 ♦ A J 9 ♣ A K Q	

The heart queen is ducked all round. 8, 2 (we play upside-down carding), 5. The heart jack comes back, and the king is played perforce from dummy. **What do you play as East? Elwynne ducked in an instant!!!** Great play!!! And earned 93.75% for her troubles. It was the only way to beat the contract. She preserved my third heart as an entry to her hand.

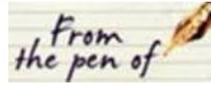
Witness: we collected the diamond king, spade ace, and 3 more heart tricks for -2.

We have heard of the attributes of great players - Dorothy Hayden (the 6th sense); Petra Mansell (did Aerobics each morning during a Tourney); Helen Sobel (who talked about the sharpness of mind); Bob Hamman (luck plays an important part); and Larry Cohen (use the LAW to improve your %); but Elwynne came up with something else: "Put Instincts Aside". Yes, 93.75% of the players *instinctively* covered the heart king. Now there was no way to prevent 3NT from coming home.

Nice one, Elwynne ! 'twas a pleasure for me to see it.

This hand came up during a regular pairs' tournament at the Margate Bridge Club:

A RATHER NEAT TRUMP COUP



Peter Bircher

14	♠ A10942	Dir: E
	♥ AJ97	Vul: None
	♦ AK72	
	♣ KQJ53	
	♥ K632	♠ Q1054
	♦ 865	♥ 1043
	♣ 6	♠ KJ10742
	♠ 876	
16	♥ 8	
9	♦ QJ9	
9	♣ AQ9853	
		♣♦♥♠NT
		N 3 3 2 5 3
		S 3 3 1 4 3
		E - - - -
		W - - - -

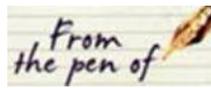
After two passes, West opened with 1♠, denying NS the opportunity of reaching their best contract of 4♠! In fact, they ended in a hopeless 4♣ contract, which East refrained from doubling, apprehensive that NS may then, somehow, find a better contract.

Let's assume however that West did not open. Then, North would probably have started proceedings with a simple 1♠. After some over-enthusiastic and over-optimistic bidding, they reach the ungainly contract of 5♣, played by North. A bemused West doubles, and East duly leads the 4♥. North looks at his wasted Club values and is, understandably disappointed in what he sees. Making eleven tricks looks impossible, but maybe there is a way - West's out-of-the-blue double also certainly warns of a bad trump break! As declarer, you win the ♥ lead with the Ace, ruff a heart, and follow this with three rounds of ♦s, ending in dummy. You then pitch the 9♥ on the A♣; ruff a ♣, and then ruff your last ♥ to reach this position:

Now play a ♣, forcing West to ruff; you over-ruff. You have now reached the critical point in the hand. You bang down the A♦, and, wait for it, trump with dummy's last trump. Yes, it seems quite spectacular, but if you don't, West would ruff with the 3♠ for one down, doubled! But now, West is forced to over-ruff with an honour, collecting the defences first trick, and has to lead a trump. No matter what he does, West can only come up with one more trick. And if West does not over-ruff and discards the 3♠? He's still dead in the water. You lead the 5♣ from dummy; West must play a trump, and it doesn't matter which one he plays. He can never make more than two tricks, giving you 5♠ doubled, bid-and-made, for an outright top. As we said to start, a rather neat trump coup, don't you think?

14	♠ A1094
	♥ A
	♣ KQJ53
	♥ 10
	♦ KJ107
	♣ 8
	♥ Q985

CARNAGE at the CLUB



Stephen Rosenberg



This hand that I played in a Teams' tournament some years' ago, belongs in the "curious-but-true" department in which our team scored +690 in the Open Room and +600 in the Closed Room, on what, at first glance, looked like a pretty innocuous and straight-forward hand.

Here's the hand, I'm sitting South (sorry, I only kept brief notes at the time) and the bidding:

Dir. N	Axx	
Vul. NS	xx	
	KJxxx	
	Ax	
xxx		jxx
JTx		AKxxx
xx		Qx
KJ9xx		xxx
	KQxx	
	Qxx	
	Axx	
	QTx	

W	N	E	5
	1D	1H	X
XX	2D	P	2S
P	3H	P	3NT
P	P	P	

The XX was alerted as showing sufficient values for a 2H bid but missing the top honours. This made my QH look good, so I felt comfortable enough to bid the 3NT. West led the JH which East ducked to maintain communications with his partner. I now took six diamond tricks, four spade tricks, one each club and heart tricks, and I would have taken the partridge in a pear tree if it had been around Xmas. It was not; so, no partridge but a very satisfying 12 tricks for +690.

We had no idea what would happen at my team-mates' table. I don't know how the bidding went, but opponent's North took the auction in 3NT. I do know that our team-mates would not have used the XX bid used at our table, so South would not have been aware that his HQ was probably safe. Our East led a low heart and declarer decided not to go up with dummy's Queen. Our partners now took 5 heart tricks, before East switched to a low club. West covered the Ten with the Jack, losing to declarer's Ace. Declarer, for some reason I've never been able to fathom, led a diamond to the Ace, and the finessed a diamond on the way back, losing to East's Queen. East continued clubs. The upshot - we (our team-mates) took five heart tricks, four club tricks and a diamond for six light or + 600. So that's how we scored + 1 290 on the hand!



UP AND UP THEY GO!

One of the very neat things we did this year was to give club administrators the ability to upload their results along with master points directly onto the database. The advantage to the players is that they can see them immediately they are uploaded by logging in to the database and more importantly incorrect results and results that simply go missing should be a thing of the past. Below is a list of all those players who have been promoted into the National levels since this new service came into being. Sorry, there are just too many to include all those below National level. Congratulations to you all on your achievements.!

NEW GRANDMASTER.

Heartiest congratulations to **Kitty Cruise** of Keurboom Club and WCBU

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER.

Well done to **Susan Botha** of Western Cape Bridge Club and WCBU

NEW PREMIER LIFE MASTERS.

Barbara Brown of Two Hearts Bridge Club and KZNBU

Norman Knight of Durban Bridge Club and KZNBU

Irene Sundelson of WAFT and GBU

NEW NATIONAL LIFE MASTERS.

Noah Apteker of WAFT and GBU

Vanessa Armstrong of Mt Edgecombe Bridge Club and KZNBU

Peta Feinstein of The Links Bridge Club and GBU

Lindi Honey of KZN Bridge Club and KZNBU

Suzette McKerron of The Bridge Centre and WCBU

Delys Shepard of The Links Bridge Club and GBU

Tolle Stabell of Zimbabwe and Norway

Jane Underwood Keurboom Club and WCBU

Barney Zagnoev of JBC and GBU

Entha Zagnoev of JBC and GBU

NEW LIFE MASTER.

Merle Karpes of The Links Bridge Club and GBU

Bill Wilkie of Benoni Northerns Bridge Club and GBU

NEW NATIONAL MASTERS.

Patrice Dordhain of Reunion

Ruth Ginsburg of The Links Bridge Club and GBU

Pamela Hall of St James Bridge Club and KZNBU

Madeline Joffe of Western Cape Bridge Club and WCBU

Zelda Silverman of Bridge@Orchards and GBU

Isobel Speirs of KZN Country and KZNBU