



South
African
Bridge
Federation

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THE BRIDGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me begin by thanking the members of this committee for their continued support and hard work carried out in a year that has been sad, depressing and challenging for us all. I would like to especially thank Ann Sturrock who is standing down from this committee having served on it since 2009. Ann has been the custodian of our masterpoints and websites since 2004 and as such has devoted more time on bridge related matters than anyone I know, in fact now that I think about it, probably more than the rest of us put together. Ann invented the Performance Index, a measurement perhaps unique to South Africa, but a far better way of grading the relative ability of players than masterpoints where you had a good chance of becoming a grandmaster despite a general lack of ability if you managed to live to 110. She was also instrumental in the design and implementation of our sabfonline database. So once again, thank you Ann, on behalf of all of us.

I would like to dwell of some of the good things that happened over the last year, the most important of these being the introduction of virtual clubs. As bridge players we have been extremely lucky in that we were able to continue enjoying this game online when all our clubs closed down. For this our thanks go to all the men and women out there who made this possible by opening virtual clubs around the country – we now have more than 20 of these.

Furthermore, as a cosmopolitan rather than parochial group of bridge players we are free with certain restrictions, to play where we like, which means should we so wish we could play all day every day. Our virtual clubs have also attracted from around the country individuals and players from non-affiliated clubs, so we have had the opportunity to make new friends who we hope will stay with us long after this pandemic has passed. COVID-19 has caused a revolution in the bridge world where over a very short period of time we have been forced to learn

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how to play bridge on a virtual platform, and to our surprise have found that we like it. Virtual clubs will never replace our real clubs, but in offering an alternative way of enjoying this game they are here to stay.

In 2019 we had over 2700 paid up members, this year that number has dwindled to 1900. In 2019 I suspect that the number of our members who played on BBO was well below 100. This indicates the herculean effort many of us have made in educating our members to become technically competent, and again a big thank you to them. It also shows us that many of our members were unable to make this transition and are waiting patiently for our clubs to re-open. Life without bridge and the social contact it brings must be very sad and lonely indeed, so once again I extol you all wherever and however you can, be it through emails, WhatsApp or simply phone calls, to reach out to our less fortunate members and reassure them that they haven't been forgotten.

Let's finish on a happy note. Once again our congratulations to Helen Kruger for her election to the WBF executive, the first South African to achieve this honour, where she will no doubt do much to enhance the profile of bridge here in South Africa and the African continent in general.

James Grant

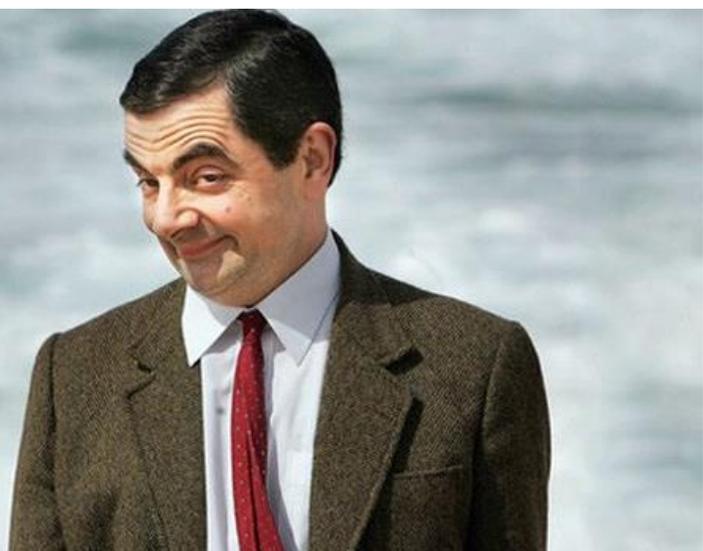
SABF SUBS

We should all have paid our subs by now especially those who have been enjoying playing in tournaments at one or more of our many virtual clubs. Last year this was an easy thing to do as we gave the money in at our local club and the club took care of the rest. This year it's different as we have to do everything ourselves which means following the instructions sent out by your union.

But maybe you missed the email so if in doubt whether you have actually paid or not the first thing you can do is log on to [SABFONLINE](#) with your SABF number and password (am I the only one whose password is "Ace of Spades"?) and check the status of Paid 2021 subs.

If this field records a NO then get hold of your local union and ask for instructions. If all else fails then drop a line to support@sabfonline.co.za who will surely put you on the right track.

You know
you want to
pay your
subs!



LETTERS

“Faces of Bridge”

Dear James

It is lovely to have a bit of good news to send you – and something on a lighter, less formal, note as well !

Henrik Hansson, a Swedish photographer, was asked to do a series of pictures on the theme “An unusual everyday life” depicting the effect the pandemic had on life in normal situations in Sweden.

His series of 8 photographs, entitled “Faces of Bridge” has been nominated for an award in the photo competition [World Press Photo of the Year](#) in the category Sports. This is a very prestigious competition, akin to the Oscars for movies, and to receive such a nomination is a truly great honour and recognition of the quality and resonance of the images.

You can read what Henrik Hansson said about the nomination by going to the WBF Site at www.worldbridge.org and go directly to the series of photographs at

<https://www.worldpressphoto.org/collection/photo/2021/41399/1/Henrik-Hansson>

I am sure you will agree that they are great pictures and really evocative of the times we are living in!

Take care and stay safe ... best wishes

Anna Gudge

WBF Communications Manager
www.worldbridge.org

“Rogue Robots”

As you will have seen, I finished a long way last in yesterday’s competition but things started to go wrong on the second board of the day.

I should emphasise that a poor workman always blames his tools or, in my case, my robot.

East (dealer - Barbara 1) had 2 points and passed

S (Me) had 5 points and passed

W (Barbara 2) had 11 points and 4 diamonds and in third position bid 1D

N (My rogue robot) passed with 22 points and with 6 diamonds towering over Barbara’s.

He didn’t double or bid 2NT or 2C. A human would not have passed with 22 points. If the robot had doubled, I would have bid 1S (5 card suit), he would have bid 4 and I would have made 11 or 12 tricks since I virtually know where the missing QD lays. We lose only AS.

After that, he was over-bidding and looking for slams and/or games when they weren’t there.

Obviously, I contributed a lot to our failure but that was the start of our afternoon’s mess. Gail Hoch assures me that these robots are the best.

I know that you ladies cannot control any robot and it is splendid that they are there to come in when the Web blows off someone as happened to Roger Price yesterday. But robots are not infallible and they have their moments!

Next week, I don’t want an inebriated robot allocated to me!

Have a good weekend.

Ashton Emery (To Jocelyn and Jacqui)

THELMA BERON - CODEBREAKER

Late last year I gave permission to a lady in England to use one of the photos she had found in our archives.

There followed this letter –



Dear James

I believe that Erica Munro from Bletchley Park Trust has explained that I was giving a brief presentation on Thelma Ziman (Mrs Beron) to 'The Friends of Bletchley Park'. Please may I thank your Federation for allowing me to use your photograph of Thelma as it made a big difference to be able to put a face to the name. I am also delighted that her native South Africa is interested in her story, because your country has every reason to be proud of her.

Thelma's wartime service at Bletchley Park (BP) was exceptional: for many women their experience was a hard slog with little in the way of intellectual stimulation or excitement. From what I have been able to piece together, Thelma left South Africa seemingly to join the war effort in Britain and enlisted in the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1940. Her initial

posting was to a listening, or intercept, station, which was eavesdropping on the verbal radio communications of the German navy. Quite how she came to be assigned to this role is a mystery, because I believe she studied for a science degree at Rhodes University College and does not appear to have been a German linguist by training. My hunch is that as Dutch-speaking women were proving successful in this role, someone thought an Afrikaans speaker would do equally well. In 1941, several women engaged in this work were invited to Bletchley Park to meet the members of Naval Section who were receiving the intercepts supplied by these stations. These women made such an impression that their hosts subsequently poached three of them for service at BP, including Third Officer Ziman, who was posted to Bletchley in October of the same year.

She worked in what was known as Naval Section II (or sometimes Z-watch). During WW2, German Naval Communications were usually encrypted and transmitted in Morse code by wireless telegraphy, and could also be intercepted by the Allies. When the codebreakers at BP had decrypted a message, the German text had to be translated into intelligible English, and that was the job of Naval Section II. Thelma was working alongside several distinguished male academics.



(LEFT: Decoding Room at [Bletchley Park](#))

The head of the section, for example, was Walter Ettinghausen (Eytan): an Oxford don who later became an Israeli diplomat. The work was conducted around the clock and she became deputy head of her particular watch. Translating a decrypted message was not straightforward and required skills other than a knowledge of German. For starters, the letters were arranged in groups, so there was no separation between individual words. Letters might also be missing

if the radio reception at the intercept station had been poor. In addition, the messages were full of technical and naval jargon and couched in 'signalese'. The translations produced by Naval Section II were sent by teleprinter to the Admiralty in London, which was the end user of signals intelligence produced by BP's Naval Section. Thelma's initials appear on many of these teleprinted messages, which are now in The National Archives in London. Much of this output concerned the activities of U-boats in the Atlantic.

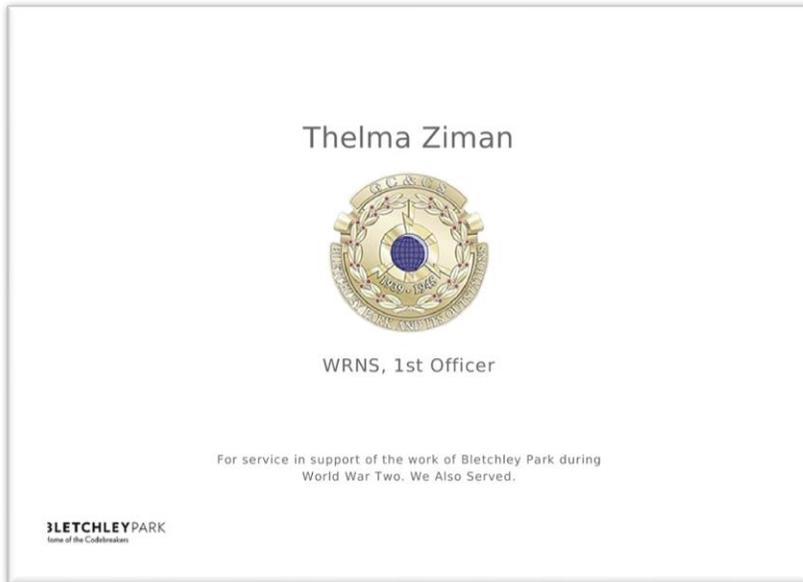
When the U-boat fleet surrendered at Lisahally in Northern Ireland in 1945, the now First Officer Ziman was dispatched to sift through any documents found in them looking for items of potential interest. She has left a detailed report of this assignment, which is also in The National Archives. It was this report that excited my interest in Thelma because she comes across as a determined and very competent young woman. When she departed for Lisahally, Thelma had not been informed that the Allies planned to operate some of these boats against the Japanese, and that those on the spot were expecting her to collate and translate the operating instructions. This was no mean feat. Moreover, it was somewhat disconcerting for Thelma to discover that she knew more about U-boats than the men who were enlisting her assistance. Consequently, it wasn't long before she found herself conducting the interrogation of German submariners; the very submariners whose doings she had been following for several years.

The German operating instructions proved difficult to render into comprehensible English since British and American submarines lacked the equivalent mechanisms. Thelma tackled this problem by finding out for herself how components of a U-boat operated. When her assignment was completed, the Royal Navy suggested she should sail with them to Scotland in one of the U boats.

(RIGHT: Four German U-boats arrived in London in 1918 (Image: SMU Central University/wikimedia commons)

Therefore, on the first leg of her return journey to BP, she sailed into the Firth of Clyde in a superior type 21 U-boat with which Admiral Doenitz had hoped to turn the tide in the Atlantic. Thelma ended the war in the Admiralty working on the captured archives of the German Navy to help establish an accurate tally of the number of U-

boats sunk during the conflict. In 1946 she was awarded the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) and she returned to South Africa the following year. I hope you will agree with me this is a remarkable story.



Thelma was bound by the British Official Secrets Act, so she would have returned to South Africa and said nothing about her wartime exploits. The secrecy surrounding BP remained in place for many years and Thelma, being in South Africa, may not have known that these restrictions were eventually eased, which enabled veterans to admit they had worked there. If you are in contact with anyone who knew Thelma, I would be most interested to know if she ever spoke about her wartime experiences. I would also be grateful if

you can tell me anything more about her subsequent life in South Africa. Her husband, I believe, was a well-respected teacher.

Thank you once again for permission to use your image.

With Best Wishes

Karen Lewis

SABF Members Remember Thelma

With the help of Roz Bernstein we tracked down two of our members who remembered Thelma. Here is a short letter from Judy Osie who along with Hymie have been established in Australia for many years; and another from Bev Chertkow.

Hi,

Good to hear from you and can only tell you about some of her bridge achievements. She represented S.Africa with Elfreda Sender twice and also once with Janie Disler (though that was not a good time as they only played half a match).

I played with her in quite a few team events and she and Hymie played for a while but had no idea what she had done which was absolutely amazing. She never spoke about it although there were some rumours but unfortunately there is no one around that could be of any help.

Stay safe,

Judy

I'm not sure whether anyone has responded with additional information re Thelma Beron. My knowledge is scanty at best as I was a young 21-year-old mother when the Berons came into my orbit.

Her husband, Dr Beron, was indeed an esteemed educational figure in the Jewish Day Schools - he was headmaster of King David Linksfield Primary for many years, highly respected and revered- a true leader who did a great deal to enhance the image of Jewish education.

My uncle, Barney Meyers was mentored by Dr Beron when he first joined the KD Linksfield staff and they became great friends which is where I first came across the Berons. As a result of Dr Beron's mentorship Barney was appointed headmaster of King David Victory Park in the mid 1960s where he too became a legend in day school education.

As for Thelma Beron, I remember her as a tall dour woman who to my knowledge never spoke of her exploits during the war - I did come across her at various bridge tournaments many years after Dr Beron died, but as I said, she was not very forthcoming.

Sadly today many who knew her are no more.

Regards

Bev Chertkow

I am sure you'll agree that this is a remarkable story and should anyone else wish to share their memories of Thelma they are more than welcome.

James Grant

ZONALS 2021

Zonals this year will be held on RealBridge from 29th May to the 13th June.

The teams representing us are as follows:

Open	Ladies	Seniors
Alon Apteker	Chris Child	James Grant
Craig Gower	Desiree Pieters	Larry Chemaly
Neville Eber	Roz Bernstein	Michael Alexander
Hennie Fick	Sharon Lang	Maureen Narunsky
Tim Cope	Peta Balderson	Brian Pincus
Andrew Cruise	Jenny Gautschi	Paul Reynolds

We wish them all the very best of luck!

PUZZLES

CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Can you crack the code and solve the crossword? Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

11	1	5	16	3	19	16		19	17	3	22	21
Q												
1		10		16		19		20		7		5
5	12	5	15	19		10	22	20	3	16	1	12
20		16		20		22		19		19		23
9	5	26	2	20	5	18		10	5	4	7	16
		9				10		26				19
13	22	6	8	1	21		6	19	5	16	21	6
5				10		24				19		
26	9	5	7	16		16	19	14	5	21	7	5
2		7		5		19		16		5		14
4	7	20	5	25	22	18		5	8	3	19	16
				V								
5		21		19		19		20		19		19
18	9	19	19	21		16	19	20	7	4	1	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

SID'S QUIZ

I was strolling through BBO and found myself in the "Virtual" quarters, then joined an Indy \$ event. This was Board 1 (rotated 180° for convenience.)

With no bidding from the opposition, I found myself propelled to 6NT, having opened 1NT from the South seat.

South / None

North

♠ K 6
♥ 7 6
♦ AKQ 8 4
♣ K 7 6 3

W E

 N
 S

South

♠ A 9 4
♥ AK 5 4 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A 4

The lead was the ♠2.

Tr 1: S2 – 6 – J – A

Tr 2-3: ♦A, ♦K – both follow

Tr 4: H6 – 10 – 3 – J

Tr 5: ♠10 – K – 5 – 4

Tr 6,7: ♦Q-♦8.

We now get to this miniature puzzle.

North

♠ —
♥ 7
♦ 4
♣ K 7 6 3

West East

♠ Q ♠ —
♥ 9 ♥ Q 8 2
♦ — ♦ —
♣ J 10 8 5 ♣ Q 9 2

 N
 W E
 S

South

♠ 9
♥ A K 5
♦ —
♣ A 4

6-card Ending

You can look at all 4 hands, but assume best defense.

Contract = 6NT (booked)

QUIZ:

North is on lead and N-S to make all the tricks. Try it?

About the Author

Sid Ismail runs tournaments on BBO every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, contact him on 082 411 9900.

RANKING ACHIEVEMENTS

It's always inspiring seeing and celebrating the achievements of our members as they climb the ranks in the world of bridge. Congratulations to everyone!

Name	New Rank	Club
Aras Apteker	Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Linda Bloch	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Eckhard Boehlke	Life Master	Western Cape
Ellen Bryans	Regional Master	Western Cape
Fabian Byrne	Regional Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Chris Castelein	Grandmaster	Port Elizabeth
Cynthia Cohen	Regional Master	Western Cape
Nola Davidson	Regional Master	Western Cape
Rosemary De Jager	Regional Master	KZNBC
Carole Dommissie	Regional Master	Kloof
Dimitri Economides	Regional Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Merle Frey	Premier Life Master	KZNBC
Rosemary Gowans	Regional Master	Westville
Julian Gruft	Grandmaster	Western Cape
Frances Harrison	Regional Master	The Links Bridge Club
Kathryn Herz	Life Master	Western Cape
Paul Inbona	Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Rinda Jacobs	Regional Master	Western Cape
Phil King	Life Master	Western Cape
John Macqueen	Regional Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Beth Oldacre	Grandmaster	KZNBC
Tanya Rawson	National Life Master	KZNBC
Robert Robot	Regional Master	International
Merle Rubin	Regional Master	Rivonia Bridge Club
Machelle Shapiro	National Master	Western Cape
Brent Shapiro	Regional Master	Western Cape
Betty Slowatek	Regional Master	Helen's Tuesday Club
Isobel Speirs	Life Master	KZNBC
Zela Stern	National Master	Western Cape
Howard Strauss	Regional Master	Western Cape
Denise Trusler	Premier Life Master	KZNBC
Andre (WP) Van Niekerk	Premier Life Master	Western Cape
Jane Waters	Regional Master	Western Cape
Derek Whiteside	Regional Master	Western Cape
Lynn Whiteside	Regional Master	Western Cape
Guy Wilson	Life Master	Western Cape
Erica Zimet	National Life Master	Western Cape

The complete list of promotions may be viewed on the [SABF website](#).

THE EXPERT CORNER 1

Today I have random thoughts about how SA players can improve their bidding by avoiding some conventions. (Hope I don't lose too many of my friends)

Bad conventions:

1. DONT

D=Onesuit hand. What is most disturbing? D when the opps can use their standard NT system or 2S (or perhaps 3S)?

2m=suit bid and an unknown higher suit. You hide your Major where you may have game, yes you sure can even if they open a strong NT.

Sometimes you get doubled and make it. Remember fit beats points. Always!

2. D of 1NT showing a minor and a major.

Same issue. Hiding your M.

3. Simpson

Used after 1NT and 2C and responds to that. Asking for distribution. You don't get any info of playing strength.

After 1NT-2C some replies 2NT with both M and min, 3C with both M and max. Why? Let's say you answer 2H with both M, and Responder invites, he will find out your strength.

Instead you should be able to show a minor with slam interest below 3NT. I also miss the 5-5 GF minors opposite 1NT in SA systems.

4. 2/1 system

I think you should have some sequences when 2/1 is not GF.

Forcing 1 NT. Not good. Why end up in 2S on a 5-2 suit when you could have stopped in 1NT and started with 5 Diamond tricks?

Semi forcing 1NT? Is this the same as Semi-pregnant?

5. Trump support in a M

Should be shown at the first possible opportunity. Don't ever bid 1S on a 4-card suit over 1H if you have 3-card H support. Not doing so I think is the worst thing you can do. If you have GF use Jacoby, else use invitational bids.

Of course there are always exceptions, but basics will get you a long way.

Sven-Ake Bjerregaard

KATHY DRIVER - A BEAUTIFUL MIND

And now for something completely different.

Kathy Driver, who represented South Africa in the Seniors team with Gordon Driver from 2011 to 2013 and in the African Zonals in Cape Town in 2017 with Diana Balkin where they qualified to represent Africa in the World Seniors Team Championships in Lyon later that year, is taking a sabbatical from bridge to focus on her new research results in mathematics. Kathy, who was Head of Maths at Wits from 1999-2005 and Dean of Science at UCT from 2006-2010, has recently collaborated with mathematicians at universities in the United States and in Spain and they have proved a range of new theorems on the properties of zeros of Laguerre polynomials $L_n(\alpha)(x)$ and Jacobi polynomials $P_n(\alpha, \beta)(x)$.

Kathy was kind enough to flatter me by sending more detailed explanations of these theorems but I think most of us would struggle to understand what a polynomial is, much less what the interlacing of zeros of two polynomials means or why it matters! It suffices to say that the short statement of facts above gets nowhere close to describing what an amazing achievement this is.

The results will appear soon in prestigious international mathematics journals and once the pandemic allows it, Kathy and her colleagues will be presenting their findings at various centres around the world including holding a conference next March in Oberwolfach in Germany. Oberwolfach as some of you will know is world renowned as a bastion of scientific achievement.

For the movie buffs out there I will try and put this in terms you will better appreciate – While Thelma would play a supporting role in *The Imitation Game*, Kathy might well feature in *A Beautiful Mind*.

Well done Kathy, we are all very proud of you. We wish you well and hope to welcome you back to bridge in the future.



BRIDGING ACADEMIA, POLICY AND PRACTICE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



BAMSA Virtual Conference

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice

28 June - 1 July 2021

Register for free at: <https://bridgemindsport.org/conference-2021>



Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) is bringing together bridge teachers, players, NBO administrators and academics from twenty countries. The aim is to exchange ideas, review case studies and share good practice in order to promote bridge more widely in society. For example, the final session will lead to the creation of a marketing campaign to increase participation in the game.

The sessions will explore what drives individuals at different lifecourse stages to learn and continue playing. The conference will develop an understanding of the barriers to learning and benefits gained from the leisure activity. Insights will be shared in relation to inclusivity, inequality and participation. By focusing on the recruitment and retention of players, the conference will also consider new ways to transform the negative images of bridge.

BAMSA hopes you will join us to share learning from case studies and exchange views of best practice. The development of educational resources in relation to each of the eight conference sessions will contribute to the wider recognition of bridge as a mindsport and social game. These will include practical implications for bridge education, policy and practice. For more information and to register for this free conference visit [BAMSA's website](https://bridgemindsport.org).

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

Squeezes and end-plays are among the most advanced of plays. End-plays are far more common and in many cases are not beyond the average player. All it requires is a bit of basic technique, and often things will turn out well because of a particular lie of the cards. The basic theme in a suit contract is; draw trumps, eliminate the side suits and then exit with a loser and wait for the opponents to open up a suit or give you a ruff and discard.

Dir. South	♠ Q106		
Vul. Both	♥ AK843		
	♦ 62		
	♣ AK6		
♠ K		♠ AJ8732	
♥ 65		♥ -	
♦ KQ10853		♦ 974	
♣ Q1074		♣ J982	
	♠ 954		
	♥ QJ10972		
	♦ AJ		
	♣ 53		

West	North	East	South
P	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Opening Lead: K♦

Bidding:

The bidding was brisk; south opened a weak two, which north raised directly to game.

Play:

Declarer took the ace, drew trumps and then stopped to think about things. With nine tricks on top, he figured that the best shot would be to play West for the jack of spades, leading low towards dummy and inserting the ten. So he drew two rounds of trumps and played a spade. In isolation this was clearly the best way to tackle the suit (finesse the 10), but here West took the king, cashed the queen of diamonds and exited safely with a low club. When declarer played a second spade and West showed out, he had to lose two more spades, going one down.

Declarer could have done better – a little advance preparation would have seen him home. After drawing the two trumps, what does it cost to eliminate the club suit first? Play A-K and another club, ruffing in hand, and now exit with the jack of diamonds, which West is going to have to win. He can cash the king of spades, but that's it – he is truly end-played, forced to play a club or a diamond, giving a ruff and discard (ruff in either hand and discard a losing spade from the other), for the game going trick.

You may say that declarer was very lucky in that west was dealt the singleton king of spades, but nothing ventured, nothing gained, goes the saying, and so it is in bridge.

Looking further at the spade suit; A singleton king would see west end-played, and so would Kxxxx, meaning east started with AJ doubleton. Now east could win the jack and cash the ace, but he would then find himself forced to play a minor suit, also for a ruff and discard.

If west had more than one spade declarer was always going down, no matter what. But declarer should have given himself a chance, by stripping away the side suit (clubs), before exiting with a diamond, just in case there was a favourable layout.

[About the Author](#)

CODEWORD

11	Q	1	U	5	A	16	R	3	T	19	E	16	R		19	E	17	X	3	T	22	O	21	L		
1	U			10	N			16	R			19	E		20	S		7	I				5	A		
5	A	12	M	5	A	15	Z	19	E			10	N	22	O	20	S	3	T	16	R	1	U	12	M	
20	S			16	R			20	S			22	O			19	E		19	E				23	P	
9	H	5	A	26	C	2	K	20	S	5	A	18	W			10	N	5	A	4	D	7	I	16	R	
				9	H							10	N			26	C								19	E
13	J	22	O	6	Y	8	F	1	U	21	L			6	Y	19	E	5	A	16	R	21	L	6	Y	
5	A							10	N			24	B							19	E					
26	C	9	H	5	A	7	I	16	R			16	R	19	E	14	G	5	A	21	L	7	I	5	A	
2	K			7	I			5	A			19	E			16	R		5	A				14	G	
4	D	7	I	20	S	5	A	25	V	22	O	18	W			5	A	8	F	3	T	19	E	16	R	
5	A			21	L			19	E			19	E			20	S		19	E				19	E	
18	W	9	H	19	E	19	E	21	L			16	R	19	E	20	S	7	I	4	D	1	U	19	E	

1	U	2	K	3	T	4	D	5	A	6	Y	7	I	8	F	9	H	10	N	11	Q	12	M	13	J
14	G	15	Z	16	R	17	X	18	W	19	E	20	S	21	L	22	O	23	P	24	B	25	V	26	C