

Editor's Comment

I know the SA bridge players going to **Buenos Aires** are happy to be going and all are looking forward to the trip. We wish you GOOD LUCK for the event itself but perhaps even more importantly savour the experience and enjoy meeting new folk who have the same common interest as you! Hopefully you will come back even more enamoured with the game of bridge and have exciting news to share with all of us SABF members.

Now some good news for everyone! The **SABF** will be retaining their **membership fees at R250** for 2025. As almost everything else has gone up in South Africa I am sure this is welcome news for all. Remember this amount is for a whole year . . . And payable please in January. When you think just what R250 can buy you these days it is for nothing!

I am so happy to report that face to face bridge is very much alive and well in South Africa! I have included news from as many regions as I knew about in this Newsletter, and even if events are being held with less numbers than before Covid, they are generally well attended and all reports speak of a happy playing atmosphere and a good day out. In a casual conversation with Rob Stephens it seems that all the bridge playing countries in the world have battled since Covid hit and their sessions too are smaller. An average of 8 - 10 tables for a club seems the norm now. The Links Saturday afternoon turnout attracts 3 or 4 sections (8 or 9 or 10 tables for a section) and I know the main club in Cape Town has worked hard to have two large playing sections.

I cannot finish without paying tribute to the many folk who work hard for bridge without any monetary gain for themselves. The SABF Committee members all put in many unpaid hours besides the many folk around the country who organise in clubs just so that bridge can be enjoyed by many. Many people like myself like to think we are giving back to a game which has brought us hours of enjoyment, introduced us to new friends and kept our minds going! *If you have never helped at your local bridge club maybe you can offer to do so.*

Yours in bridge

Deirdre Ingersent

16th WORLD BRIDGE GAMES

Buenos Aires, Argentina • 22 October - 3 November, 2024*

*Registration and Opening Ceremony on 21 October



The South African Bridge Federation held national trials back in April and May to select the Open, Women's and Mixed teams to represent the country at the World Bridge Games, being held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The trials format was Pairs, where the top 3 qualifying pairs would make up the respective teams.

The Open Team consists of an experienced lineup of Alon Apteker & Craig Gower, Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens, and Neville Eber & Hennie Fick.

The Women's Team consists of Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom, Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel, and Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon.

The Mixed Team consist of Larry Chemaly & Sharon Lang, Terry & Jan East, and Duncan Keet & Carol Stanton.

To find results and bulletins of the trials, go to <https://thebunkers.uk/sabf/world-bridge-games-trials-2024>

Most of the players are expected to depart for Buenos Aires a few days before the 1st match is scheduled to start on the 22nd October, some for the purposes of getting over the minimum jet lag there should be for travelling Westwards, and others for some early sightseeing of Argentina.

The players themselves are responsible for organising their own travels to the Championships, booking their own flights and accommodation. The World Bridge Federation lists recommended hotels to stay

at, mostly for the convenience of the players as they're near the playing venue, but they tend to be on the pricier range of options, so a lot of our players have found cheaper alternatives like Airbnb's and apartments to share.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for the 21st, where all the national teams typically get introduced, and this would normally be followed by a cocktail "party". This usually ends up being a quick snack and drink, and perhaps a short catchup with some of the other international players. Neville Eber usually likes to track down Zia Mahmood as soon as possible to get a shortlist of recommended restaurants to try out over the following week (Zia is apparently more qualified than Google), while Craig Gower and Alon Apteker easily make some light conversations with other top players from around the world.

This is the World Bridge Games (Every 4 years), which is like an Olympic event, where every country in good standing with the WBF is invited to send teams in 4 different categories. The only category the SABF elected not to send was a senior team. Over the last few years, Mixed events have gained popularity, and it seems that Mixed Pairs and Teams events will be promoted and encouraged more going forward.

There are 35 teams in the Open category, arranged into 2 groups of 17 and 18 teams. A UEFA Style draw was conducted to determine the 2 groups, with South Africa being put into group A. A full round robin will be played within this group, with the top 8 teams progressing to the round of 16.

There are 24 teams in the Women's category, in a single group. They will play a full round robin and the top 16 teams will progress to the knockouts.

There are 29 teams in the Mixed category and they too will play a full round robin within a single group. The top 16 again will progress further.

Because of the different number of matches being played in each group, all categories will be on different schedules with the length of matches all being different. The Open will play 16 board matches, the Women 12 board matches and the Mixed 10 board matches.

All these round robin matches will take place over the first 6 days of the tournament, with the round of

16 taking place on the 7th day (28 October). If any teams fail to make the round of 16, then there is a BAM Teams event for this 1 day which they may choose to participate in if they wish.

The 8th day is the start of the 2nd week, which is reserved for the real business end of the main tournament, and includes the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final. Each of these matches are 2 days long!

This is also where the WBF encourages further participation of ANY players from around the world, regardless of level, as a new competition starts in the form of Transnational Open Teams and National Pairs. Any teams eliminated from the 1st week have the option of entering these events free of charge, either with the same teams they played in, or forming completely new and different teams. Often players who didn't qualify for their country in local trials will come along for this 2nd week to experience a World Championship event and get many chances at playing some of the world's best players. Bridge is one of the few sports in the world with this privilege, and many South Africans have done this over the years, with great pleasure being had with these experiences.

If anyone would like to follow the progress of our teams, the official tournament website is as follows:

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/16th-world-bridge-games-2024>

If anyone wants to be involved a bit more directly, a WhatsApp group has been started by the 3 teams, where updates, photos, news and just anything interesting will be shared with the group. Feel free to join the group with the following link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HU916VbNNA4E0Xflg1INzk>

Or alternatively scan the following barcode to join the group:

Enjoy the show over the next few weeks!

Submitted by

Rob Stephens



CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION BETWEEN FORCING AND NON-FORCING BIDS

Submitted by
Rob Stephens

There is nothing more irritating than having your partner pass what you think is a forcing bid.

1. North East South West
1♥ P 1♠ P
3♣

2. North East South West
1♦ P 1♠ P
2♥

3. North East South West
1NT p 2♦ P
2♥ P 3♣

4. North East South West
1♥ P 2♣ P
2♦

5. North East South West
1♥ P 1♠ P
3♥

6. North East South West
1♥ P 2♣ P
3♥

7. North East South West
1♣ P 1♠ P
2NT

8. North East South West
1♣ P 1♠ P
3♠

In the following problems please indicate whether you think the last bid made is

- a. Forcing to game
- b. Forcing for 1 round
- c. Invitational
- d. Not forcing

9. North East South West
3♥ P 3♠

10. North East South West
1♣ P 1♠ P
2♣ P 2♠

11. North East South West
1♦ P 1♠ P
1NT P 2♥

12. North East South West
1♣ P 1♥ P
3♣ P 3♥

Answers

1. North may have only 2 clubs if the hand has specifically 4♠ 4♥ 3♦ and 2♣.
2. North must have at least 3 clubs (see above to see why).
3. North must have at least 5 clubs. A reverse bid (2♦) always promises more cards in the 1st bid suit.
4. North must have at least 6 clubs. This bidding is promising 5 hearts and clubs must be longer as he bid them first.
5. North must have at least 6 clubs. The hand is not balanced and there is no second suit.
6. North must have at least 6 clubs. South is showing at least 9 cards in hearts and diamonds, leaving just 4 cards in the black suits. It would be suicidal to bid clubs with fewer than 6 in this situation.
7. North must have at least 6 clubs. The hand is not balanced (would have rebid 2NT with 18-19 balanced) and there is no second suit.
8. North must have at least 6 clubs. The hand is not balanced and there is no second suit.
9. North may have only 5 clubs here. The hand is not balanced but the second suit may not be biddable as this would be a reverse.
10. North must have at least 5 clubs. The hand is not balanced. If the hand's shape was 4♠ 1♥ 4♦ 4♣, North would have been opened 1♦.



NATIONAL MIXED TEAMS: R2000 per team

FRIDAY 8th – SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER

ON REAL BRIDGE & MONITORED AT A CENTRAL VENUE.

2 sessions per day – times to be advised.

Entries: SABF online: www.sabf.co.za

Payment: SABF BANK DETAILS ???

Ref: Team name.

Entries close: 1ST November.

- **Teams scoring with VP conversion and a maximum of six players - ONLY Male / female partnerships allowed.**
- **Playing from home will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances with prior SABF approval and home camera surveillance.**
- **No entries will be accepted unless in writing or online, and accompanied by payment .**
- **Enquiries: [Bernard Donde: 082057407387](mailto:Bernard.Donde@sabf.co.za)**

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGIONS

PRETORIA - DELENE SPENCER

Nobody is interested in playing tournaments.

Our Tuesday Ladies club has on average only 9 tables and the Friday club has only 11 tables.

The Pretoria BBO club has about 6 tables.

Suzanne Weide runs an Academy club on a Monday afternoon where she has 15 tables but unfortunately very few of these players progress.

To our NGBU affiliated clubs. She also runs a private club on a Thursday morning so this takes away from our affiliated clubs.

This arrangement was agreed to many many years ago and there is nothing we can do about it!!!

The ladies club is having their Championships on 2 Tuesdays in November and so is the Friday Club.

Otherwise not much going on in Pretoria.

CAPE TOWN - DUNCAN KEET

At the moment the Cape Town crowd are certainly doing wonderful bridge things encouraging young children to learn the game. They are undoubtedly the leaders amongst our various bridge unions in this department.

Keep up the good work and we encourage other areas to follow their example!



JOHANNESBURG - BETTY RAVENSCROFT

Betty Ravenscroft from Johannesburg hosted a wonderful one day Sunday event recently at the Blairgowrie Community Centre. It was held in honour of Gill Brown who passed away a few years ago. Rob Stephens was the tournament organiser and the TD. It was a Pairs Event and random seating was employed which meant a pair played against a variety of different pairs during the day. All participants agreed that the value for money was excellent as welcoming coffee and muffins were followed by morning tea, a lovely lunch, afternoon tea and a small cocktail party afterwards! A great day out!

The winners were

1st Hennie Fick and Neville Eber

2nd Val Bloom and Nicky Bateman

3rd Craig Gower and Di Roslee

As a P.S. I would just like to commend Betty for keeping bridge alive on the Northern Suburbs side of town. She picked up what was Gill Brown's clientele and despite the problems with Covid and their playing venue has continued to run both pairs and teams very successfully. Your players thank you for your passion and interest Betty. Keep going!

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGIONS

JOHANNESBURG - *Entry submitted by* **DEIRDRE INGERSENT**

so I hope the information is accurate

Diana Balkin, a Johannesburg player, was responsible for organising a grand fundraising raffle to help all the players travelling to Buenos Aires. There were magnificent prizes and tickets at R100 each were sold all around the country. This raised about R150,000 which will be split amongst the 18 South African representatives to help them with their costs. As our Rand is sadly weak against almost all other currencies I am sure a little extra spending money will be very welcome.

In addition a very successful one session Pairs Event was held on Sunday September 8th at The Links Bridge Club in Johannesburg. This attracted 48 pairs (an excellent entry!) The money raised from this was distributed amongst the 8 Gauteng players off to Buenos Aires. All participants agreed it was a really fun event with great atmosphere and spot prizes and auction raffles. Although a good few people were involved with the organisation of this, again Diana Balkin's name was one mentioned the most with Joel Harris being a totally extrovert MC.

JOHANNESBURG - **DEIRDRE INGERSENT**

BENONI NORTHERNS is a small but popular bridge club operating at Benoni Northerns Sports Club. We have on average 10 tables at our weekly Thursday afternoon session. We are probably the cheapest club in business as for R25 we offer 24 boards of bridge scored with Bridgemates and using qualified Club TD's. Oh yes and afternoon tea is served too!

We recently held a very successful one day Saturday Bridge Event. We had 11 tables. For R120 only per person we offered lots of bridge, morning and afternoon teas and pizza slices for lunch. Who can beat that value?

The winners were Bridie Bullen-Smith and Di England and Runners-Up Heather Stevens with Helen Roberts. As only one cash prize per pair is permitted this rule allowed four other pairs to receive cash prizes too - John Calvert and Cathy Saville; Hans Lombard and Albert Van Lier; Diane and Jeremy Lovell; Deirdre Ingersent and Pat Eve. We also had random spot prizes and free playing vouchers for lucky players. A great day out and enjoyed by all. We are known for a friendly atmosphere and enjoy having visitors. Not a long drive if you live on the east side of Joburg!

DURBAN

A very successful Petra Mansell Pairs Event was held over a weekend in September. Marauding pairs from Johannesburg won both the A Grade and B Grade - respectively Val Bloom and Neville Eber and Cindy Polakow and Joel Harris. It was a most enjoyable weekend they all said with good organisation.

The Oyster Festival Bridge Tournament

It was a real struggle to get sufficient entries and eventually I was able to get a reasonable size field to go ahead with the tournament though the field was smaller than the previous year. There was some delay due to my difficulty in securing a tournament director.

Fortunately, we were able to get Neil Hayward to be the tournament director. Neil did a superb Job in a quiet friendly matter. He was very ably assisted by John Bircher on the computer.

The tournament was dedicated to Linda Bircher to her huge commitment over many years to both The Garden Route Bridge Club and the Southern Cape Bridge Union.

An excellent lunch was served by Kilzers Kitchen on Saturday. In the evening Vernon Rice kindly sponsored oysters and wine on the deck overlooking the lagoon.

Congratulations to Hennie Fick and Chris Bosenberg who were the winners beating Terry and Jan East into second place..

A big thank you to Personal Trust for their generous sponsorship of R9000. Personal Trust will also be sponsoring the upcoming red point events o a similar extent:

- Face to face Plettenberg Bay bridge tournament on 25 October and
- Outeniqua Teams online on 30 November and 1 December.

*Submitted by
Peter Ward*

***Congratulations to Cheryl Pocock and Bruce Ackerman from Cape Town
for attending every Oyster Festival since inception.***

Pro-Am Event in Cape Town **WOW!**

A Pro-Am session was held at the **Bridge Centre in Green Point**, Cape Town, on **Saturday 3rd August 2024**. While the regular Trumps session was being played in the main room, there were 12 tables set up in the smaller room for the parallel Pro-Am session. There were 106 players in total on that Saturday afternoon.

Jocelyn Ashberg organised the event in tandem with Lara Woznica and her bevy of learners, as well as with a few other bridge teachers and their students. Students were paired with more experienced bridge players so that each of them could wet their feet and learn the ropes of playing face-to-face bridge at a bridge club.

The nervousness of the newbies, combined with the excitement of both Pro's and Am's, was palpable from the minute one walked into the play area. And it didn't stop there . . . that room was buzzing the whole afternoon! It was a wonderful afternoon's bridge for all concerned with an underlying educational basis, yet in a friendly and convivial atmosphere. What a tremendous success - beyond anyone's wildest dreams!

A big 'thank-you' to Jocelyn for organising the event and to all members of the WCBU committee and other helpers who assisted in so many ways. And a special thanks to Neil Hayward for TD'ing and keeping decorum. This will become a regular event every few months. The next Pro-Am event is scheduled for **Saturday 2nd November**.

*Submitted by
Shirley Kaminer*



To Play or Not to Play



I had my doubts when I took up the game of bridge.

After all, my great uncle had some hair-raising tales to tell.

Take the case of Mr & Mrs, well, let's call them Z to protect the author from legal action. We don't know what their home life was like, but at the bridge table they tended to be explosive. At the club it was almost as much fun betting on if, when and how this Mount Vesuvius would erupt, compared to executing a Devil's Coup at the table. There was one particular tournament which will never be forgotten. Side bets had been placed and everybody was on tenterhooks. In due course, a chair was heard to slide. You could have heard a card drop. Mrs Z was on her feet. "I don't like your bid!" she yelled at her husband! Mr Z leapt to his feet, turned red, and said "I don't like your face!" My great uncle declined to elaborate on what happened next.

Then there was the mild-mannered bloke who met up with the above-mentioned great-uncle in a bar after a tournament. With white face and wide eyes he asked, "What does this game do to people? I have never hit anybody in my life before!" Precise details of what might have provoked this assault at the bridge table are probably best imagined.

And consider my grandmother, a pious soul who neither drank nor smoked, but got in touch with her dark side by gambling at rubber bridge at 1 cent per 100. Something about this apparently harmless pastime transformed these 4 little old ladies into raging demons. The only redeeming feature of this "disgraceful" display was that the loot was donated to a fund for building retirement cottages in a dusty Karoo village.

But then again, those LOL's were never lonely. And is that not the beautiful thing about bridge. As none other than Martina Navratilova said, "No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table". Social intercourse, what every human needs. More on the intercourse matters in the next article

And how else could a dusty Karoo farmer, like my Dad, rub shoulders with the judges and the other learned elite in Grahamstown. The game is a desperately needed bridge in the conflicted world we live in.

So, what has bridge given me? Endless challenging pleasure, tears, laughter, friends ... that's not bad for a card game. How fortunate am I that I decided to take up bridge as a hobby. I never stop learning, and every hand is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you are going to get!

Daphne is a good club player who thoroughly enjoys her bridge! She was approached by me to write an article (not everyone agrees and some say yes but never get around to it!) so Thank You Daphne

written by
Daphne Ryder



WESTERN CAPE BRIDGE UNION EXPANDS SCHOOL PROGRAM WITH OVER 400 STUDENTS

The Western Cape Bridge Union is making impressive strides in growing the game of bridge among young learners through its expanding school program. With 16 schools and over 400 students now participating, the initiative aims to introduce bridge to children as young as Grade 3, teaching them critical thinking and cognitive skills through the game. The program has been well-received by schools, with each institution scheduling sessions where learners can be taught by trained bridge coaches.

Western Cape Bridge Union organisers Duncan Keet and Mo De Goede are at the forefront of this initiative. Mo De Goede, who leads grassroots development, has personally engaged with schools in the Bonteheuwel area, working to introduce bridge into their extracurricular activities. The program, which targets primary schools, aims to follow the progression of learners into high school, ensuring continuous engagement with the game. Trained bridge coaches teach students during school hours, with the goal of making bridge accessible to everyone, regardless of background.

The initiative is not just about learning a game—it also serves as a form of job creation. Individuals from local communities are trained and paid to coach bridge in schools, creating opportunities for personal development and income generation.

The school program will culminate in a major event on September 28 at Rosewood Primary School in Bonteheuwel, where more than 200 students will participate in a competition. This event is open to the public, and anyone interested in learning more about the program or supporting the initiative is encouraged to attend.

Western Cape Bridge Union continues to push the boundaries of sports development, using bridge as a tool for cognitive growth, teamwork, and community building. For more information, parents and schools can visit the Western Cape Bridge Union website or reach out directly to Duncan Keet or Mo De Goede for details on how to get involved.

*Imtiaz Kaprey and Stephen McBride head up the coaching department
for this initiative from WCBU side*

The Partnership Quiz

Take your quiz for all of your favourite partners and see how your partnership stacks up

1. Compared to my partner, I play:

- A. Much better
- B. A little better
- C. About the same
- D. A little worse
- E. Much worse

2. My partner and I have bidding problems:

- A. All the time
- B. Very often
- C. Sometimes
- D. Seldom
- E. Never

3. My partner and I discuss bidding issues:

- A. Never
- B. Seldom
- C. Sometimes
- D. Very often
- E. All the time

4. Compared to my partner, I make mistakes:

- A. Much less often
- B. A little less often
- C. Sometimes
- D. Very often
- E. Much more often

5. My partner makes mistakes because:

- A. He's a bad player
- B. He doesn't care enough
- C. To err is human
- D. He doesn't concentrate
- E. Bridge is a hard game

6. At the bridge table, my partner is:

- A. My severist critic
- B. My middle hand opponent
- C. The only one who will play with me
- D. My best friend
- E. My biggest fan

7. My partner and I argue:

- A. All the time
- B. Frequently
- C. Occasionally
- D. Rarely
- E. Never

8. My partner thinks, that compared to me, he plays:

- A. Much better
- B. A little better
- C. About as well
- D. A little worse
- E. Much worse

9. My partner criticizes me:

- A All the time
- B Frequently
- C Occasionally
- D Rarely
- E Never

10. My partner needs my help:

- A. Never
- B. Rarely
- C. Occasionally
- D. Frequently
- E. All the time

Scoring The Partnership Quiz

Step 1 - Assigning values to your answers.

Assign values to your answers according to the following chart:

Answer	Value
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5



Step 2 - Rating the quality of your partnership's teamwork.

To rate the quality of your partnership's teamwork, add the values for questions 2, 3, 7 and 10

If your total for teamwork is:

4 - 9 Your partner lacks teamwork. You need a lot of work or a new partner

10 - 14 You and your partner should work on improving teamwork

15 - 20 You and your partner have the right attitudes.

Step 3 - Rating your attitude toward your partner.

To rate your attitude toward your partner, add the values for questions 1, 4 and 5

If your attitude toward your partner is:

3 - 7 You think you are too good for your partner. You either need to change your attitude or get a new partner

8 - 10 You and your partner are compatible

11 - 15 You think you aren't good enough for your partner. Work on improving your game

Step 4 - Rating your partner's attitude toward you

To rate your partner's attitude toward you, add the values for questions 6, 8 and 9

If your total for your partner's attitude toward you is:

3 - 7 Your partner thinks he is too good for you. Be objective. If you agree, work hard to improve. If you disagree, move on

8 - 10 Your partner thinks that you're okay, but could be better. Work on it!

11 - 15 Either your partner thinks that you are too good for him or is a rare gem. The partnership has potential.

It's always quite special when a situation arises which one reads about in the books actually crops up at the table. Have a look at this extremely rare opening lead option.

South dealer, neither vul

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ Q32
♦ AJ107
♣ KQJ32

WEST

♠ AKQJ654
♥ J7654
♦ 5
♣ -

EAST

♠ 10987
♥ 1098
♦ 8
♣ 109864

SOUTH

♠ 2
♥ AK
♦ KQ96432
♣ AJ7

South	West	North	East
1D	4S	5D	5S
6D	All pass		Opening lead: ??

The Bidding:

1D – It's a good hand but even playing strong twos's I prefer the choice made.

4S – Another good decision. This hand is NOT a two-suiter with such disparity of length and quality in the majors, and with no defence it's vital to pre-empt.

5D – Nothing else really appeals.

5S – Hard to know what the effect of this bid will be, but the spade fit alone makes it worth it.

6D – No room for science, so a practical choice, which must have some play.

The Play:

West led the ace of spades and that was the end of that. The players were about to start the next hand when east pointed out that 6D could have been beaten! 'All' it required was for a brave west to lead a lowish spade, giving east the first trick with the seven. Now a thoughtful defender, on winning the trick, would ask himself what was going on? Why has partner underlead the AKQJ? And the only conclusion to be drawn is that partner was desperate to place you on lead; and with five clubs in dummy and five in hand it could only be a club ruff that partner was seeking.

A further point is that the correct technical lead is the S4, which itself is a suit-preference for the lower outside suit. It takes some guts to do things like this, because on another layout declarer may have the ten of spades, and one ends up looking silly. But here, it would have brought a smile from west, seeing the well thought out choice of lead working out so spectacularly.



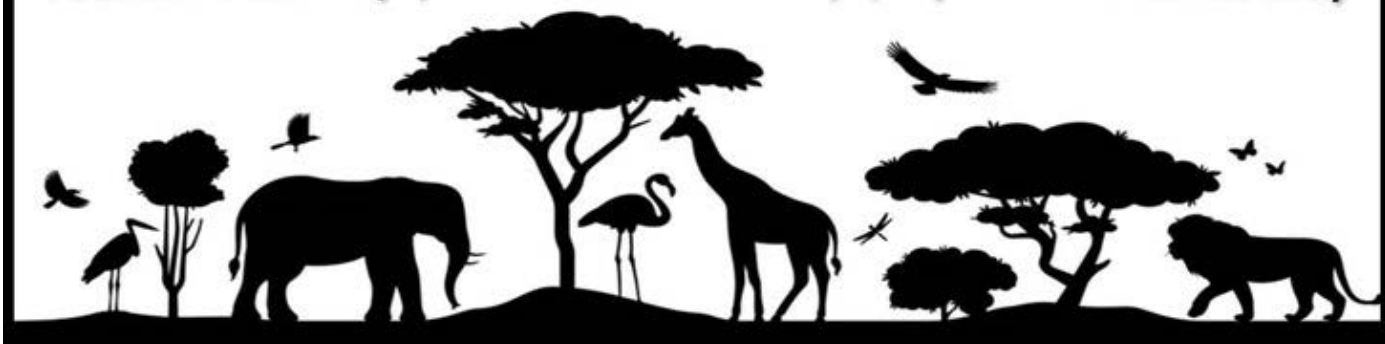
National Congress 2025



Johannesburg, South Africa

18 - 25 May 2025

Teams: 18-22 May | Mixed Pairs: 22 May | Open Pairs: 23-25 May



**South African Bridge Federation
National Congress 2025**

Welcome to the home of the SABF National Congress 2025.

This week long competition from 18 - 25 May 2025 is South Africa's premier tournament, consisting of National Teams, National Pairs, Mixed Pairs and a No Fear Pairs.

We welcome players from around the country as well as the world to join us in Johannesburg for an amazing week of good bridge and great hospitality.