



South African
Bridge Federation

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THE BRIDGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2021 winds its weary way to an end what can we look forward to in 2022?

No one is keener to get back to face to face bridge than I and with that objective in mind the SABF has officially handed over the responsibility for this to the individual clubs. To help them carry this out in a structured manner we have, through the unions, issued each club with a Risk Assessment form which has been adapted from that used by the EBU. In addition they have received an excellent planning document written up by our friend John Gibson from the Southern Cape which raises the questions amongst others as to whether non vaccinated members will be allowed to play and to what extent social distancing norms will be adhered to?

No sooner had we issued this edict than we were hit with a new South African wave (not to be confused with the Mexican wave) of COVID 19 called omicron (again not to be confused with the French variant oMacron) which will no doubt set the opening of clubs back that much further.

As always our major concern is the continuing good health of our members so when the time comes each club has been charged with sharing with its members its Risk Assessment form so that they can make an informed decision as to if and when they return to real bridge.

It remains for me as always to thank my committee consisting of Jocelyn, Roz, Kit, Helen, Annie, Philip, Graham, Andrew, Arie and Ice for all their hard work and support during the year and finally a big thank you to our editor Nicky for producing our bulletins.

It is that time of year again so I wish you all a safe and peaceful festive season, and look forward to seeing at least some of you sometime in the new year.

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ERRATUM

In our last bulletin the results of our National Congress Pairs were incorrectly posted. The correct results may be found below

PAIRS FINAL

Championship

1 st Neville Eber and Chris Bosenberg

2nd Eckhard Boehike and Kathryn Herz

Congress

1 st Rob Sulcas and Maureen Narunsky

2nd Nicola Bateman and Tas Nestoridis

Plate

1 st Jeff Sapire and Diana Balkin

2nd Roger Wilson and Brian Thomas

President

1 st Lara Woznica and Adrian Mauerberger

2nd Rita Gawron and Jenny Matisonn

James Grant

INTERCLUB

This tournament is one of my favourites; for me it has always struck the right balance between being one of our most important tournaments of the year while maintaining a high degree of sociability, a key ingredient when playing for the enjoyment of it all. Despite the fact that this year again we were forced to play online and had the misfortune to choose a weekend when loadshedding, cable steeling, unplanned power cuts etc. etc. had reached a new high in this country, we still managed to have a lot of fun.

James Grant

INTERCLUB TEAMS RESULTS

Winners

Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel

Roz Bernstein & Sharon Lang

Runners Up

Rob Stephens & Jude Apteker

Bernard Donde & Sven Bjerregaard

UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTIONS



We all spend hours discussing conventions, memorizing them and then waiting for them to happen. Often by the time they do occur we have forgotten their existence!

We play Leaping Michaels, a convention showing a two-suiter hand over an opening weak two or three bid.

I held the following hand:

S Kx

H QJTxx

D AQT9xx

C -

Sharon (dealer) passed, my right hand opponent opened 3C

I looked at my hand and thought... what do I bid? My hearts or my diamonds?

Suddenly the penny dropped, leaping Michaels!

I bid 4D, showing a 2 suiter...Diamonds + a major

Now it was easy

Sharon held

S xxx

H Kxxx

D Jxx

CX Axx

And bid 4H, to pass or correct.

In the other room they played in 5D, the same tricks 10 are makeable in both contracts...

+13 IMPs to our team

Always a thrill when an unusual convention is successful.

Roz Bernstein

SID'S QUIZ

During one of the Thursday Pairs game on RealBridge, this hand cropped up and is a real tester, even at Double-Dummy.

You count 11 tricks after a club lead from West in a 3NT game. Your job is to make 12 tricks!

Dir: East
Vul: N/S

Optimum
NS +660

♠ 10 9 7 6 3
♥ 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ 5

♠ Q J 5
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ 7 4
♣ 9 7 4 3

NORTH
WEST 2 EAST
SOUTH

♠ K 4
♥ 9 7 3
♦ J 9 2
♣ K J 10 6 2

♠ A 8 2
♥ A K Q 8
♦ A K 5
♣ A Q 8

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	5	4	5	5
S	2	5	4	5	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

2
4 8
26

West finds the only lead to hand you 12 tricks, the analyzer states. Even so, can you see where the 12th trick will come from?

Tr1: C3 5 K A

Tr2: ?

Try it first before reading the solution.

About the Author

Sid Ismail runs tournaments on BBO every Wednesday and Friday. For more information, contact him on 082 411 9900 or visit www.elsid.co.za. SABF Masterpoints can be earned!

CHEATING AT BRIDGE

During the global pandemic of COVID-19 and associated lockdowns playing bridge online has become increasingly popular, but along with it has come a global pandemic of cheating as this is far easier to do and more difficult to detect than when playing face to face.

Here in SA we have been fortunate in that we have received very few reports of suspicious behaviour and I would like to believe that online cheating here in South Africa is minimal. However to believe that it is not taking place at all would be very naïve and irresponsible on our part and so as explained in previous Newsletters, the SABF has put policies and processes in place to investigate accusations and identify cases where collusive behaviour online has occurred.

These investigations can prove both laborious and difficult but we have had the good fortune to be put in touch with Nicolas Hammond the well-known American bridge expert. He has recently published a book on his methods called "Detecting Cheating in Bridge" found at

https://www.detectingcheatinginbridge.com/buy_now.html (\$39.95 plus taxes and shipping).

Nicolas is a computer scientist and statistician, originally from the UK where he read Mathematics and Computer Science at Cambridge, now residing in the USA (read more about Nicolas on his website).

Nicolas' software is used to score ACBL regional and national events. He has extended this software to include and analyse hands publicly available from face-to-face bridge tournaments from 1955 to present day, plus ALL hands played on BBO on Virtual Clubs this year. He is able to produce metrics and statistics for any given pair at the push of a button, and compare these to the bridge greats of today, or yesteryear - Nicolas has been called as an expert witness in a number of high-profile cases recently, and this data has been used as supporting evidence to verify and corroborate cheating accusations leading to convictions and sanctions against some well-known players.

In addition, Nicolas' system can output hand data in a way which makes it very easy and efficient for an investigator to analyse bidding and play for pairs under suspicion, saving valuable time in qualifying initial accusations and in producing expert testimony in a Disciplinary process.

Nicolas is working with numerous NBOs in helping them with their policies and procedures. It is expected that, with these metrics and tools available to our Ethics Committee, the SABF will be able to reduce the amount of online cheating dramatically, investigating and sanctioning offending players. But as before, I would implore you to report suspicious actions to your TD who will file them with the proper authorities.

Let's all help to keep this wonderful game exactly that - wonderful!

Andrew Cruise

DEFENSIVE PLAY

Defence is arguably the most difficult aspect of bridge. Not only do you have to formulate your defence, but you often have to do so for your partner too, in order to achieve your aim of beating declarer's contract.

Dir: South	♠ K1098	
Vul:	♥ Q9	
East/West	♦ A1094	
	♣ Q103	
♠ 54		♠ AQ73
♥ K10875		♥ A6
♦ 86		♦ K752
♣ 9742		♣ 865
	♠ J62	
	♥ J432	
	♦ QJ3	
	♣ AKJ	

West led the seven of hearts, nine, ace, deuce. As East, what do you return?

In play, East mechanically returned his remaining heart and it was natural for West (who needed only for East to have another heart and one entry) to duck. The defence was now separated from its five tricks and declarer made his contract.

From the bidding partner is known to have very little (at most the KH). East knows this and should be thinking for partner – he should prevent him from making an error, i.e. to duck his KH.

The plan should be simple. Return the 8C to show bid interest there. Declarer will win in hand and take the D finesse, losing to the K. Now East should play his remaining heart. Clearly West knows now there is no future in the H suit and he should take his K. At this stage the defence has 3 tricks in the bag and whatever West returns East has 2 tricks in spades to come for one down.

It is noteworthy that this defence cannot cost for if by some chance West held the J of Hearts, he could cash out the suit now. The lesson to be learned here is that by thinking for yourself and partner, you can avoid partner going wrong.

Neville Eber

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

- a) Did Rudolph go to school?
- b) How did Good King Wencelas like his pizzas?
- c) Doctor, Johnny has swallowed our Christmas decorations!
- d) Why does Santa hate getting stuck in chimneys?
- e) Santa, do you employ waiters in your new restaurant in the North Pole?

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

Many contracts that one plays in have choices in the play. But one of the first issues to consider is the matter of safety, when going from one hand to the other.

Dir: North Vul: None	♠ AJ84 ♥ AK2 ♦ 6 ♣ A8753	
	♠ Q105 ♥ 5 ♦ K843 ♣ Q10962	♠ K962 ♥ 764 ♦ Q10952 ♣ 4
	♠ 73 ♥ QJ10983 ♦ AJ7 ♣ KJ	

North	South
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
3♥	4NT
5♣	5NT
6♥	Pass

Opening Lead: 3♦

Bidding:

This was a good auction by NS.
2D was the ever-useful fourth suit

forcing; it's game forcing and asks opener to describe his hand. Usually it's used to find out if opener has a stopper in the 4th suit for NT purposes, but it can also be employed when responder wants to find out more about opener's shape and strength. In this sequence, North's delayed jump to 3H showed a better hand with 3 trumps, and a 3 suited hand with a shortage in diamonds. After that, South used Keycard Blackwood to find 4 key cards opposite (3 aces and the trump king), and then he asked for kings, over which North signed off.

Play:

It's easy to make a hash of a hand like this, and then complain afterwards about the bad breaks. With 10 top tricks all that has to be done is to ruff 2 diamonds in dummy. But it's getting back to hand twice that needs to be dealt with. If you win the DA and ruff a diamond low, then play a club to the king to ruff your last diamond, you must then cash dummy's remaining high trump, followed by ace of clubs and a club ruff in hand in order to draw the trumps. The trouble here is that East has a singleton club and will ruff the CA, after which you will eventually lose a spade.

The correct line is to ruff the first diamond high, cross to the CK and ruff the last diamond high again. Then you can come off the table with the H2 and draw the trumps, losing just the one spade.

It's not a particularly difficult hand – so long as you think about it. Those solid hearts, the QJ10983 are the key to the winning line. If you had say, Q108432 you could not afford the luxury of trumping high.

About the Author

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He teaches all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons, contact him on jeffshirl@telkomsa.net, or call him on 082 551 2526.

SOLUTIONS

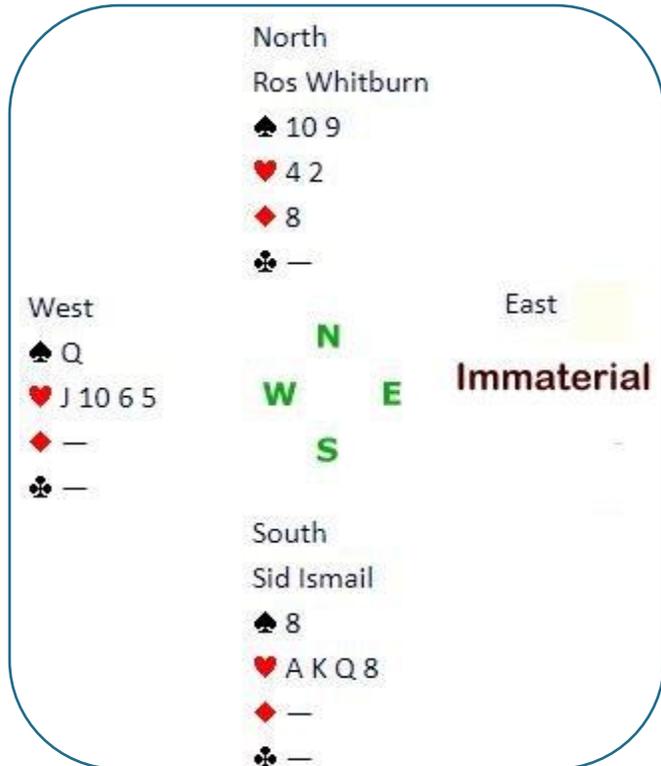
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS:

- a) No, he was elf taught
- b) Deep pan, crisp and even
- c) Yes, he has a bad case of tinselitis
- d) He suffers from Claus -trophobia
- e) Yes and no, it's elf service

SID'S QUIZ

I immediately exited with a small spade at trick 2! West won the ♠J and returned another club. I won the ♣Q. I promptly cashed the ♠A now (Vienna Coup) and then played off the ♦A - ♦K and hopped over to the ♦Q and cashed the ♦10, discarding my club. Here are the last 5 cards, with dummy playing the ♦8

You discard your spade 8 from hand.



And West?

West was truly squeezed. If she pitched the ♠Q, dummy makes the ♠10. After the heart discard, declarer's ♥8 became the 12 trick!

Now try it without ducking a spade early to “rectify the count”. A squeeze never materializes.