



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

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April 2019
Bumper Easter Issue

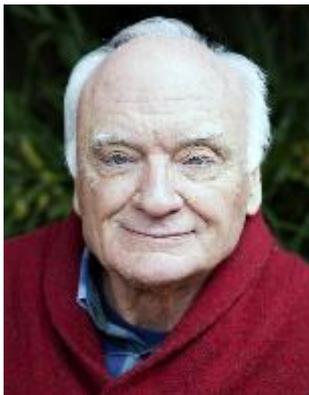


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TO ALL OUR CHRISTIAN MEMBERS



TO ALL OUR JEWISH MEMBERS



FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of all of us I would like to wish the Open team of Andrew Cruise, Brian Pincus, Malcolm Seigel, Robert Sulcas and Anton Der Kinderen (all from Cape Town) and the lone Gauteng representative, Hennie Fick; and the Women's team of Gautengers Diana Rosslee, Carol Stanton, Beverley Hewitt and Trish Crosse, with their two KZN partners Vanessa Armstrong and Tanya Rawson, all the very best in the Zonals, which will take place in Morocco in June!

When people ask me about Bridge, I tell them it's a game very much like golf. You'll no doubt tell me that playing bridge is not at all like playing golf and of course you are right. But there are definite similarities and I won't bore you with them all but mention only one. I have never met a golf player who overtly or secretly didn't want to improve his game. I believe that bridge players, and certainly those playing tournament bridge, are exactly the same. The SABF has for many years encouraged courses and subsidized these when unions have held them. This year our committee has decided to do things a little differently – we're going to be far more aggressive in our marketing of this concept. There are plenty of good teachers out there more than willing to share with you practical knowledge in ways of improving your bidding, hand play and defence. And what about the rules of the game? That's another fascinating area where we could all benefit from knowing more. So here is our goal. This year we want to improve the level of bridge in this country – not only for those players at the very top but for all of us across the spectrum so that at the end of the year we're all playing better bridge than we were in 2018. To achieve this we need you to take advantage of the various initiatives your unions have already put in place or will be launching later in the year. Ask your club what plans they have to improve your bridge. They in turn can ask your union.

In the meantime here is something you can do right now. On the SABF site we have reintroduced the FORUM. As an individual, or as a club, at the end of each bridge session you can find a hand that has stumped the majority of the players where they have failed either to bid it properly or played it or defended it correctly. Send it in to the experts and ask them how they would have handled it. You might well learn something to your advantage. Good luck!

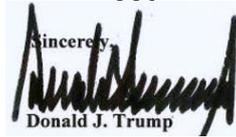
James Grant



ANOTHER TWEET FROM THAT OTHER PRESIDENT

Howdy folks! Wanted y ‘all to be the first to know I’ve bought the local Bridge club. Don’t know much about bridge yet, but I’m sure going to make some darn changes. First off we need to get rid of those screens. Any commie democrat can climb over that thing and start given his partner Unauthorized Information quicker than you can say Jack Rabbit.

No folks ! I’m gonna build me a Wall. It’s gonna be big, it’s gonna be great – you’ll love it. It’ll stretch from the front door of the club right out the back door and reach from the floor up to the ceiling. It’s gonna be huge. There’ll be slots along the wall to pass the boards through, but far too small should any illegals get ideas. The committee weren’t happy until I told them the Mexicans will pay for it.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

RESULTS’ ROUND-UP

As the President wrote in the opening editorial, the winners of the National Trials were:

- OPEN – Andrew Cruise, Brian Pincus, Malcolm Siegel, Robert Sulcas and Anton Der Kinderen (all from Cape Town) and the lone Gauteng representative, Hennie Fick



Andrew Cruise; Robbie Sulcas; Malcolm Siegel



Brian Pincus



Hennie Fick



Anton der Kinderen

- WOMEN - Gautengers Diana Rosslee, Carol Stanton, Beverley Hewitt and Trish Crosse, with their two KZN partners Vanessa Armstrong and Tanya Rawson



*Front: Di Rosslee and Carol Stanton
Back: Trish Crosse and Bev Hewitt*



Tanya Rawson and Vanessa Armstrong

The **SAWBA** Nationals were held in the Pretoria Bridge Centre. The Pairs' competition attracted 48 entries, with the final top 6 pairs being:

1	Nicola Bateman and Merle Modlin	61,77%
2	Ghita Sandler and Chris Child	59,16%
3	Karen Fourie and Nelonia Vorster	57,90%
4	Val Bloom and Tas Nestoridis	57,24%
5	Michelle Alexander and Jocelyn Ashberg	54,81%
6	Kathy Driver and Diana Balkin	54,72%

The Teams' Competition saw 16 teams doing battle, split into two eight team sections. The Congress section was won by the Francis Team with a total of 100,09 points from KZN's Honey team, which ended with 78,31 points.

In the Championship section, the Hewitt team, with 85,32 points repeated their victory in the National trials, but it took a hard-fought final board victory to defeat the second-placed Bloom team by the narrow margin of 1,31 points!



Merle Modlin and Nicola Bateman

YOU GOTTA KNOW THESE THINGS!

1. OPENING 1 NO TRUMP

A 1NT opening or overcall is natural, if by agreement it contains no void, at most one singleton which must be the A, K or Q and no more than two doubletons. If the hand contains a singleton, it may have no doubleton. The 'new' announcement therefore only needs to state the range which may not exceed 4 high card points. Players who overcall NT with a SMALL singleton need to alert this as well as the range.

In South Africa, we simply announce the range 15-17, 12-14 or whatever. The fact that a singleton A, K or Q can be in partner's hand is implicit and need not be mentioned.

Sid Ismail

JUST FOR A SMILE!



A Tournament Director was once called to a table where a player complained about how slow the N-S players were at table 7. Walking over to this table, he found that the offenders were two priests, Fr. Tobin and Fr. Moynihan. He intoned: "Our fathers, who art at seven, hurried be thy game."

(with thanks to Paul van der Wal)

2. WHEN to ASK a QUESTION

Q. *My right-hand opponent, who ultimately became declarer, made a bid. At my turn, I asked his partner what it meant, but doubted that the explanation was correct. The bidding continued. I was on lead to the final contract. May I now ask declarer to correct or confirm his partner's explanation before I lead?*

A. **NO!** *The relevant law does not give you this right. It does give you the right at the end of the auction and during play at your turn to ask for an explanation of the entire auction, but all answers about specific bids can only be given by the bidder's partner. If the explanation was not accurate according to their agreement, the onus is on declarer to call the Director before the opening lead and state that he thinks you were given an incorrect or incomplete explanation. (The defenders have the same responsibility but must do so at the end of play!) If declarer fails to do that, his side is at jeopardy for a score adjustment for any damage that may result from not following the correct procedure. If you did ask declarer if dummy's explanation was correct or not, you would certainly be telling your partner that there was something about your hand that made you sceptical about the explanation. Also, repeated questioning of a bid after getting an explanation can be both irritating and intimidating, especially to less experienced players. If the explanation is wrong, declarer is supposed to speak up. If that doesn't happen and the hand does not match the explanation, just call the Director at the end of paying that hand. Remember, your side is entitled to know what the actual agreement about a bid is, but not whether someone has mis-bid!*

Matt Smith, National Tournament Director, ACBL

3. THE FORUM



To all bridge players everywhere in Southern Africa, the Forum has been created on the SABF web-site to give you a platform to ask questions. There is a panel of four experts - Tim Cope, Bernard Donde, Alon Apteker and Leif Stabell - who will reply to your queries.

Law-related queries will be dealt with in the first instance by Sid Ismail who has access to World Bridge Federation Directors to assist. You can address your queries to forum@sabf.co.za, or access <http://www.sabf.co.za/forum/> to see who is asking what!

4. GETTING OUR EMAILS

One of the complaints I receive on a fairly regular basis from individuals is that they do not receive the emails sent out from our database sabfonline, so I'm going to try and explain why this happens.

First of all let's go through the reasons why the individual may be at fault:

- 1) You have not loaded your email address onto the database
- 2) Your email address might be there, but it is misspelt
- 3) You have a new email address, but your old address is still reflected on the database
- 4) You're getting the emails, but they are going through to your spam file

Our email provider may be at fault. We use a company called MailGun, one of the largest and most professional mail distributors in the world. Given that they have thousands of clients it happens from time to time that they will be blacklisted thanks to material sent out by one of their clients. However, they have a large department whose sole purpose in life is to ensure that MailGun remains blacklisted for less than 24 hours and as their software will continue to send out rejected messages for up to 72 hours this should not prove to be a problem. But it is – the reason being that there are hundreds of companies out there who compile lists of blacklisted sites and sell these on to their customers, the thousands of companies who are trying to protect their computer network from malicious attacks from outside. Service providers especially will subscribe to a number of these companies and depending on how efficient these companies are, MailGun may reside on their blacklist for a week or more before they get removed. Which brings me to the main reason you're not receiving this mail - your service provider is blocking it. And it's not simply because one of the companies they subscribe to has MailGun blacklisted for the last couple of weeks, in addition they have their own rules and regulations as to what mail they will allow through their firewall.

So other reasons may be that

- a) the attachment is too large, and/or
- b) several emails are coming from the same source so it must be junk mail!

Don't waste your time ringing up their Help desk (a new age oxymoron by the way). I have spent many hours on your behalf talking to these people and so far have found no one who had even the faintest idea how their firewall handled incoming email. The standard reply was that according to their logs they never received the email even though I could quote the exact second the mail arrived at their server, and the message generated by their server when the mail was rejected. So I have given up trying to drag some of our local service providers into the 21st century, instead now when we send you an email we also drop it directly into your personal folder on our database. So if you take the trouble to log on to your account on sabfonline you will see the last 5 or 6 messages sent to you.

James Grant



"TRUST ME, JOHN! JUST BECAUSE YOUR BRIDGE PARTNER DUMPS YOU...DOESN'T MEAN I WILL!"

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ROUND AND ABOUT

BRIDGE OVER THE GARDEN ROUTE

So GeoTrav and Fatcat, having heard about the variety and friendliness of the bridge clubs, decide to “do” the beautiful Southern Cape in South Africa. The Garden Route, as this region is popularly known, is one of the most scenic localities on the planet: superb and often remote beaches are strung along a rocky coastline fringed by forested hills and rugged mountain peaks. The indigenous flora (fynbos) with innumerable species of flowering shrubs, including the iconic protea, resembles a natural garden. The plan was to play every day from Monday to Friday at a different club, SABF registered or social, in the small towns that dot the region.

Plettenberg Bay Bridge Club (SABF) - Monday

This was our first stop and the friendly members were quick to extend a warm welcome. A fortunate top on Board 1 gave some promise of a good session but we went a little astray on Board 5. GeoTrav was loath to bid 4C over 3H as this would be Game Forcing in our system and he was unsure how Fatcat would interpret a double. Had the specifics of responsive doubles been previously discussed and agreed the par contract of 4C could have been attained. It is perhaps worth noting that when the opponents have bid and raised a single major suit in a competitive auction, a double even at the three-level is responsive and not penalty.



Board 5 (dealer N and NS vulnerable):

	♠K862	
	♥Q3	
	♦AQ84	
	♣982	
♠JT4		♠AQ5
♥AKT952		♥J764
♦J52		♦T97
♣5	♠973	♣Q73
	♥8	
	♦K63	
	♣AKJT64	

Bidding			
N	E	S	W
Pass	Pass	1C	2H
X	3H	Pass*	Pass
Pass			

* A responsive double may have been a better option.

Having had their first taste of the adventurous bidding which characterises the Southern Cape bridge scene, Fatcat and GeoTrav adopted a more circumspect approach and eventually emerged with 61%. This was not quite good enough to catch local expert Lin Gubb who won the event in partnership with international expert, Russ Parkinson.

Dutch Twos Cause Havoc at Knysna Duplicate (Social) - Tuesday

Several years ago Mike Wright and Viv Lloyd set out to run a friendly, sociable club and have succeeded admirably and with great efficiency. With some 20 tables our visit to a club with duplicated hand records and bridge mates adding to the pleasure, proved very enjoyable. Board 8 produced a good variety of contracts.

Board 8 (dealer W; nobody vulnerable; lead 2S)

	♠K9872	
	♥4	
	♦AJT97	
	♣87	
♠QT3		♠5
♥Q532		♥KJT97
♦Q832		♦K3
♣65	♠AJ64	♣AKQJ9
	♥A86	
	♦64	
	♣T432	

Bidding			
W	N	E	S
Pass	2S ¹	3C	3S
4D	Pass	5D	All Pass

¹ spades and another and < 12 pts

Fatcat sitting north had a fairly standard 2S opening bid for a pair playing the increasingly popular “Dutch Twos” in which a 2S or 2H opening bid shows a two-suited hand. That West chose to join in the auction with a new suit at the four-level with only six points exemplified the gung-ho approach to the bidding which was not unusual in the area. Fatcat followed the example of GeoTrav by not doubling (we employed a friendly approach!) but five down undoubled was nevertheless not a success for our opponents. Clearly partnerships need to spend time discussing defensive methods as more and more sophisticated conventions enter the game.

The Wilderness Bridge Club (Social) – Wednesday



Marcia Kriek and all the members of Wilderness Bridge Club made us very welcome and although only a small, social club it was very professionally organised with hand records and pre-dealt boards. A good club standard was evident and GeoTrav and Fatcat were impressed and happy that bridge in Wilderness seems on the up. The views of the lakes and river, as well as a stroll around the village green during a sit out round added to the enjoyment.

Defensive Fun at George Bridge Club (SABF) – Thursday

Bridge in George, the largest town in the region is thriving and the friendly atmosphere has contributed to the club’s growth. The popular annual team’s event at this locality held every November is an ideal opportunity for visitors to meet the local members and we met up with many old friends, including one of the organisers Errol Walker. With a 20 table Howell movement and a crammed venue overlooking the spectacular Outeniqua Mountains on a particularly hot day, concentration needed to be at a peak to manage a string of difficult defences (we defended more than 60% of the hands). Interestingly many of our opponents asked us about our defensive signals etc and it is probably fair to say this is the weakest area of the game in the region.



Fatcat outside the George Bridge Club

7NT at the Garden Route Bridge Club Knysna (SABF) – Friday

The largest and perhaps the strongest of the local clubs, the Garden Route Club is efficiently run by its committee under the steady guidance and expert direction of Linda Bircher. With plenty of visitors, including the well-known British Swallows (nesting only allowed in sites of special scientific interest, notably local pubs and the well-priced local restaurants), the field was graded and keen to do battle.

Board 8, yet again proved memorable. (Dealer W; nobody vulnerable):

<p>♠7 ♥J753 ♦QT84 ♣K976</p>	<p>♠A2 ♥42 ♦AK95 ♣AJ843</p>	<p>♠J65 ♥T6 ♦J762 ♣QT52</p>	<p>♠KQT9843 ♥AKQ98 ♦3 ♣--</p>	<p>Bidding</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4C¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT²</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5C</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5H³</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>¹ Gerber ace-ask ² 3 Aces ³ 1 King</p>		W	N	E	S		Pass	1NT	Pass	4C ¹		Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5C		Pass	5H ³	Pass	7NT
	W	N	E	S																				
	Pass	1NT	Pass	4C ¹																				
	Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5C																				
	Pass	5H ³	Pass	7NT																				

Grand slams often result in a lot of post-match discussion and this one was no exception. It seems that one factor was the 1NT opening by Fatcat (north). As a 1C opening offers no clear-cut rebid a 1NT opening seems most descriptive and facilitates the further bidding. The second factor is the decision by GeoTrav (south) to bid the grand in No Trumps rather than spades on the grounds that if in a 7NT contract the spade suit cannot be brought home (4-0 break, jack off-side) then 7S is not making either. Once the bidding reveals that north has all the aces plus a minor suit king, GeoTrav can count 13 tricks viz. seven spades, three hearts, two minor suit aces and one minor suit king (either KC or KD). We speculated afterwards whether, in a team’s event, it might be safer to proceed via a transfer and use exclusion Blackwood (5D here) as, if north has the “correct” two aces, rather than all three, a contract of 7S would still be makeable.

By Paul Mestern (Fatcat) and Roger Scoon (GeoTrav)

QUIZZES AND THINGS

1. THE RETURN OF SID'S QUIZ WHAT TO BID!

Partner opens a natural 1C in 2nd seat at Love All. Pass on your right.
Sitting South, this is your hand:

♠ AK2	What do you bid? <i>Have a go at one or more alternative bids, and then see Sid's solution on page 9.</i>
♥ AK8	
♦ K1082	
♣ Q104	



Sid Ismail

2. PETER'S PUZZLE FINDING THE BEST DEFENCE!

by Peter Bircher
Margate Bridge Club
KZN South Coast

Defence is regarded as the hardest part of the game and getting it right at the table is never easy. In this hand, played at Margate early in December 2018, South declared in four spades, receiving the Jack of diamonds as opening lead. Declarer covered, for no reason other than to prevent a club switch. You win with the K♦ and now have to find the correct continuation to beat the contract.

6	Dummy
	♠ J932
	♥ Q10762
	♦ Q3
	♣ AQ
	You (East)
	♠ 106
	♥ 985
	♦ AK42
	♣ K972

What you would play at trick 2? *Try it yourself, and then see Peter's solution on page 8.*



Peter Bircher

3. ASK HENNIE

This is the first in the series of "Ask Hennie" where the readers and I ask Hennie Fick to help us with playing or bidding problems that we need solved. For those of you who don't know Hennie, he is a top bridge-player, a Grandmaster, with a Performance Index approaching 1 200. He is a member of the team that will represent South Africa later this year in the All-Africa Zonals to be played in Morocco. He is also a Johannesburg-based bridge-teacher, able to teach anyone from the relative beginner to the expert! For more details, you can contact him on 078 136 1210 or by email at henniefick@gmail.com.



Hennie Fick

5	♠ K74	Dir: N
	♥ K94	Vul: N-S
	♦ T4	
	♣ AT987	
♠	♠ AJT95	
♥	♥ T87	
♦	♦ QJ96	
♣	♣ 4	
	♠ Q8632	
	♥ 632	
	♦ 87	
	♣ J65	

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N					
S					
E	2	3	5	5	2
W	3	3	5	5	2

For his first task, we have asked Hennie to solve the puzzle from The Bridge of December 2018. This is the final hand of the Never-Never Land Invitational, where Peter and Wendy land up in 3♠, gleefully doubled by the vengeful Hook in the South seat. Hennie is allowed to consider this a double-dummy exercise in which he is entitled to see all four hands; East is declarer in 3♠x and gets the lead of the 3♥. Below, we show how Hennie would have played the hand, and why, to make the contract.

“When Wendy first saw dummy, she wondered on what basis Hook could find a double when she had so many of the high

cards in view. It dawned on her that it could only be due to a strongish trump holding. Wendy and Hook had a history where Hook had doubled her previously with the sole intent of unnerving her, since he knew that as a relative newcomer to the game, she might succumb to a bit of extra pressure. This time however, Wendy was adamant that she would earn some respect from Hook and get some revenge for his past lack of respect for her game! She reasoned that the only way she could make her contract in view of the adverse trump break was to score TWO hearts, TWO diamonds, ONE club and at least FOUR trump tricks. Wendy set about her task in an enviable way; she played the QH from dummy, won by North, who did his best by returning a small heart which Wendy won in hand. She now made a fine play by playing a club to dummy’s King, again won by North, who could do no better than exit with his third heart. Wendy won in dummy, cashed the CQ and ruffed a small club with the S5 in her hand! She now cashed two rounds of diamonds, ending in Dummy, and played another club, which she ruffed; South over-ruffed. At this stage, Wendy knew that if spade honours were split, there was no layout that could defeat her. South, being down to only trumps, returned a spade, which North, cleverly, ducked. Wendy won with the ST and exited with her last diamond. As she was still sitting over North with the AJ of spades, the defenders couldn’t prevent Wendy from winning the last two tricks. Sweet revenge and even sweeter +530 was just what the doctor had ordered to ensure Peter and Wendy’s success in the tournament.

There are a few interesting learning points in this hand:

- Declarer stayed calm under the pressure of playing a doubled contract, decided and stuck to it.
- In view of the suspected bad trump break, drawing trumps was never an option for declarer.
- Declarer needed the outside suits to break favourably and played accordingly.
- There is little merit in doubling a contract (especially a part-score) based solely on a long trump holding.
- Tipping declarer off that trumps are going to break badly can only improve her play; a declarer, having been made aware of the bad trump break, will often play the hand better by at least one trick; so keep that in mind when doubling a contract. Saying that, doubling can be very lucrative when applied correctly.”

4. PETER’S PUZZLE: THE SOLUTION

On the day East continued with the ace and switched to a trump. Declarer continued drawing trumps in 2 rounds ending in dummy and led a heart. West took South’s King with the ace and led a club. Too late! Declarer now did not need the finesse, going up with the ace. He cashed the queen of hearts and ruffed a heart, setting up two hearts for club discards, making 10.

Despite not finding the club opening lead, this hand can be defeated. How? Go back to trick 2. Having won with the King of diamonds, you need some vision. Trust your partner to have the ♦T. Underlead your ace!

6	♠ J932	
	♥ Q10762	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ AQ	
♠ 84		♠ 106
♥ AJ3		♥ 985
♦ J1098		♦ AK42
♣ 10654		♣ K972
	♠ AKQ75	
	♥ K4	
	♦ 765	
	♣ J83	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	4	4	1
S	-	-	3	3	1
E	1	1	-	-	-
W	1	1	-	-	-

This would be an obvious plea for a club switch. West wins and can fire a club through. Declarer has no option but to try the finesse and go down.

What if partner was leading from a doubleton $\spadesuit J x$?

In that case, you will let declarer make 11 tricks, instead of 10 but the contract was always making, without a club lead at trick 1. The only advice I can give is to avoid leading doubletons, a lead that is regarded as 'last resort', unless from touching cards, such as T-9 or J-T.

SID'S SOLUTION

First things first - the purpose of bidding is to find a playable fit, then to find a playable level - in that order. *I repeat... in that order!* What has partner got for his 1C opening? He could have a variety of hands, such as

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.
Qx	QJxx	QJx	Qx	Qxx	Q
x	x	QJx	QJxxx	QTxx	QTx
QJx	AQ9	Q9x	--	Aqx	Axx
AKxxxx	KJxxx	A8xx	AKxxxx	KJx	AK9xxx

My hand looks like this:



Optimum final contracts are

1. 6D/6NT
2. 6C (marginally better than 6D)
3. 4NT
4. 7H (in Master Points)
5. 7NT/7C

Now think of a sensible bidding sequence to get you into each optimum contract.

Here's the solution to the quiz: **BID 1D FIRST!**

Why take up space? Partner cannot pass 1D, and his rebid will assist us greatly in the pursuit of placing us in the right contract.

For example:

1	2	3	4	5	6
1C - 1D	1C - 1D	1C - 1D	1C 1D	1C - 1D	1C - 1D
2C - 4NT	1S - 2H*	1NT - 4NT*	1H - 1S	1NT - 4NT	2C - 4NT
5H - 6C	3C - 4NT	6NT - P	2H - 3H	6NT - P	5C* - 7C
P	5H - 6C		4D - 4S		P
	P		5C - 5S		
			6C - 7H		
			P		

Can you now see that by responding 1D in the first instance, you are actually helping partner by keeping the bidding low? Heroics will come later. *First collate, then assess the combined assets.*

Here is what happened; partner had hand f. above and the full deal and bidding were as follows:

8	N newmoon	W Robot	N E S
	\spadesuit Q \heartsuit Q105 \diamondsuit A43 \clubsuit AK9832	\spadesuit J10654 \heartsuit 964 \diamondsuit 9765 \clubsuit 5	P 1 \spadesuit P 1 \heartsuit P 2 \spadesuit P 4NT P 5 \spadesuit P 7 \spadesuit P P P
	S Robot	E Robot	
	\spadesuit AK2 \heartsuit AK8 \diamondsuit K1082 \clubsuit Q104	\spadesuit 9873 \heartsuit J732 \diamondsuit QJ \clubsuit J76	

You can follow the play on <http://tinyurl.com/yafj4yvh>

Lesson: Never, ever jump in the first round to show extra values. Values you can show later. First find a fit!

JEFF SAPIRE'S BRIDGE LOUNGE

Jeff, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, 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 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Jeff Sapire

This month, he writes: "It is always enjoyable to observe top players in action. See how a couple of experts bid this hand and then see how declarer went about the play.

W dealer NS vul.	AK7 T5 AK94 AJ74	
QT5 AK8 JT3 KQT9		J84 63 Q87652 52
	9632 QJ9742 -- 863	

W	N	E	S
1C	X	P	1H
P	1NT	P	4H

Lead KC

North does not have a typical take out double – supposedly short in clubs and support for the other three suits. However, as a 1NT overcall shows 15-18, with more all she could do was begin proceedings with a double (there's a saying that 'all strong hands begin with a double'). The 1NT rebid showed 19-21, so South shot straight to game with the modest six card suit and the void.

Now, how to play it on the club lead? South put up the ace at trick one – this was important so as to keep some control in the suit for later. There are two spade tricks, four trumps, two diamonds and a club, so the tenth will have to come either from the fourth spade or the jack of clubs.

Declarer realized the danger of drawing trumps immediately, which would have led to the defenders getting a club ruff, so he first cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a club. I think many players would have gone wrong now, playing the king of diamonds to pitch another club. The trouble with this is that one would then have to rely on a 3-3 spade break to make the contract. This is only a 36% chance, and it means one cannot utilize the jack of clubs in any way.

Declarer figured this out and after discarding just once he played a trump. West won and now it was decision time for him. Cashing the queen of clubs would have made it easy for declarer. If a third club was played he would not play the jack, but ruff it instead and continue trumps, saving that card (CJ) for later. West in fact switched to a diamond, and again declarer was put to the test, but got it right by NOT putting up the king, instead ruffing in hand. He continued trumps, taken by West, who played a second diamond and again he refused to play the honour, ruffing once more. Now he drew the last trump and played a club towards dummy's jack. West took the queen, but now declarer could finally take the king of diamonds and the jack of clubs, to discard two spades. As it happens, declarer could have taken the king when West switched to a diamond, to throw a spade, for the same result.

If West returns a spade when in with the first trump, declarer wins in dummy and plays another trump, and West plays a second spade. This has effectively removed declarer's option to play clubs, so he has to now cash the king of diamonds, throwing a club, and hope that the spades are 3-3, which they are."



THE HISTORY CHANNEL.
WHERE THE PAST COMES ALIVE.

WHERE WE LOOK AT GREAT HANDS FROM YESTERYEAR!

This deal occurred in a world championship match between Italy and France “back in the day”!

Dlr.: N Vul.: No	8 Q5 KT87432 QJ5	
KJT97 T87 9 9642		542 K9643 AJ5 T7
	AQ63 AJ2 Q6 AK83	

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
	P	P	1C
1S	2C	P	2NT
P	3D	P	3NT
P	P	P	

Opening lead: 7H

At the first table, Italy, represented by Benito Garozzo and Pietro Forquet, playing the Neapolitan Club, bid the North-South cards as shown. Forquet’s club opening indicated 17+ high-card points, not necessarily including clubs, and North’s artificial two-club response indicated high-card values. All further bidding was natural, and Forquet ended up in 3NT. Pierre Ghestem, sitting West for France, made the inspired choice of the **7H** as his opening lead, and the first trick went Q-K-A. Declarer then led a low diamond to the King, East taking the Ace and returning a low heart. Forquet played low from hand but had to win the third heart with the **JH**. He next cashed the **QD**, led a club to the Jack and conceded a diamond to East’s Jack, establishing the suit. But, East then cashed two heart tricks, setting the contract by one!



Benito Garozzo



Pierre Forquet



Pierre Ghestem

The bidding at the second table was altogether different. The French North, José Le Dentu, opened as dealer with 3D to which South, Claude Deruy, responded with 6NT, ending the auction. The Italian West had a very difficult choice of opening leads. Finally, after much thought, he came up with the **9D**. Declarer covered with dummy’s Ten, and that was the end of that! South was now certain to score six diamond tricks, four clubs and his two major suit aces to come to twelve tricks. And so, the strange result was that, at Table 1, South was declarer in 3NT, down one; while at Table 2, South was declarer in 6NT, making! The Italian West (the name has not been recorded for history!) did not sleep well that night.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN 2018

The lists below show the players who have earned the most Red and Blue masterpoints during the year of 2018. The lists are mutually exclusive in the sense that if you appear on the Red list you won't get to appear on the Blue list too. Our congratulations go to Noah Apteker and Frank Chemaly for topping the lists, which show only the top 10 in each category. For the complete list, go to www.sabf.co.za

RED POINTS EARNED in 2018			BLUE POINTS EARNED in 2018		
290,45	Noah Apteker	GBU	87,68	Frank Chemaly	KZNBU
266,49	Craig Gower	GBU	85,14	Robert Sulcas	WCBU
249,41	Nicola Bateman	GBU	79,18	Mark Oliff	KZNBU
227,02	Robert Stephens	GBU	77,27	Michael Alexander	WCBU
204,93	Alon Apteker	GBU	71,73	Cynthia Posniak	WCBU
193,51	Larry Chemaly	GBU	70,54	Barbara Smith	GBU
193,32	Isobel Speirs	KZNBU	69,69	Jan Chemaly	KZNBU
177,70	Hennie Fick	GBU	69,37	Graham Burrows	KZNBU
173,98	Tas Nestoridis	GBU	68,56	Mignon Leigh	KZNBU
164,39	Merle Modlin	GBU	66,81	Mary Mutch	KZNBU



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 those players who have been promoted into the National and Regional levels since our last report. Sorry, there are just too many to include all those below Regional level. As requested, the list is in alphabetical order of surnames. Congratulations to you all on your achievements!

NAME	NEW RANKING	CLUB/UNION
Michael Alexander	National Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Irene Apsey	Regional Master	Garden Route Bridge Club/SCBU
Gunilla Bjerregaard	Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Sven-Ake Bjerregaard	Premier Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Marianna Culligan	Regional Master	Rivonia Bridge Club/GBU
Gail Gersowsky	Gold Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Erna Hewitt	Regional Master	Kloof Bridge Club/KZNBU
Tracy Kaplan	Regional Master	Helen's Tuesday Club/GBU
Bernice Kaye	Regional Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Arshad Khan	Regional Master	Durban Bridge Club/KZNBU
Hilary Margolis	National Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Olle Melin	Life Master	The Bridge Centre/WCBU
Jeff Murley	National Master	Durban Bridge Club/KZNBU
Wendy Praetorius	National Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Dot Priest	Regional Master	Alan's Bridge Club/GBU
Marisa Raffinetti	Regional Master	Garden Route Bridge Club/SCBU
Cary Roberts	Life Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Judy Roberts	Regional Master	Westville Bridge Club/KZNBU
Bridget Simpson	Regional Master	Kloof Bridge Club/KZNBU
James Smith	Regional Master	Western Cape Bridge Club/WCBU
Judy Walsh	National Master	Outeniqua Bridge Club/SCBU

For a complete list of promotions this year go to <http://www.sabf.co.za/promotions/Promotions.pdf>

