



The President's Address

The major event held since our last bulletin was our annual congress, once again held in beautiful Cape Town, so let me begin by congratulating the winners

Teams Championship	A Apeker, C Gower, B Donde, R Stephens
Teams Congress	A Der Kinderen, A Hughes, T Rawson, J Masojada
Teams Plate	M Alexander, M Narunsky, T East, J East
Pairs Championship	R Stephens, B Donde
Pairs Congress	N Eber, H Fick
Pairs Plate	J Rabie, S Botha

It was one of the most enjoyable congresses in which I have taken part and I am sure that is an opinion shared by most if not all of the attendees. Our thanks for its success must go to Jocelyn Ashberg and her team for organizing just about everything, to Waleed El Menyawi and his team for running the tournaments so smoothly, to the WCBU for kindly organizing two evenings of free drinks and snacks which added immensely to the festive spirit of the event, and all of the players who made it such a special occasion. Our overseas visitors were overwhelmed with the friendliness and hospitality with which they were received and have promised to return again. I would like to extend a personal thank you to John Bryant whose efforts secured such a magical venue for us, and who ran a shuttle service each morning, in both inclement and fair weather, to bring players from Kelvin Grove to Newlands – what a perfect host and gentleman!

In this Issue

1. President's Address
2. Congress Survey 2024
3. Event Report: SA National Pairs Final
6. Hi All! Duncan Craggs
7. 2022 Unbelievable Year
8. Hall of Fame - Tim Cope
9. Joy Rothenberg
9. Up Over vs Down Under
10. Roman Signals
11. Sidz Quiz
12. High Level Value Doubles (v2)
16. Teaching Beginners
17. Sid's Solutions
19. Mampoer Tips
20. Achievements - July 2023

Congress 2024 Survey

A decision was taken back in 2019 that the next two congresses would be held in Cape Town in an attempt to put it on the international circuit and make it more attractive for our local players. This plan was interrupted by COVID the first of these being held in 2020 and the second in 2023. After these two tournaments the committee would decide whether we continue this plan for at least another year or revert to holding congress around the country.

As this was both a difficult and emotional decision it was agreed that we would send out a survey on this question to all of our members.

The survey was sent out in 3 sections, GBU & NGBU, KZNBU & ECBU, WCBU & SCBU.
We received 98 replies in all

Here are the results of the survey

GBU submitted 51 replies

To the question - ***Would you play in Congress in 2024 if it were held in Joburg?***

38 responded Yes

WCBU submitted 35 replies and to the above question

9 responded Yes

KZN submitted 12 replies and to the above question

9 responded Yes

To the second question - ***Would you play in Congress in 2024 if it were held in Cape Town?***

From the GBU 33 responded Yes

From the WC 35 responded Yes

From the KZN 8 responded Yes

To the third question - ***Would you play in Congress if it were held in Cape Town in 2025?***

From the GBU 35 responded Yes

From the WC 35 responded Yes

From the KZN 9 responded Yes

To the fourth question - ***Would you play in Congress if it were held in Durban in 2025?***

From the GBU 26 responded Yes

From the WC 9 responded Yes

From the KZN 9 responded Yes

To the fifth question - ***Would you prefer the 2024 Congress be held in Joburg or Cape Town?***

Joburg had 34 votes

Cape Town had 62 votes

No preference had 2 votes

Clearly a large majority of our players would prefer that we continue with Cape Town as the venue so that's where congress will be held next year.

Event Report: South Africa National Pairs Final



*Photo: Australian players participating in event at the picturesque Newlands cricket stadium.
Tony Leibowitz, Ian Thomson, David Beauchamp, Jamie Thompson*

After a couple of days sight-seeing in Cape Town, our team competed in the South African national bridge tournament. The tournament ran for a week and was split into a teams' event and finished with a 3 session pairs qualifying event and a three session final.

The pairs final had 22 qualifiers and each pair played four boards against each opponent. My partner and I qualified in first place and Jamie Thompson and Tony Leibowitz came 3rd.

Below are a few exciting hands from the final.

Dealer: East

♠ T
♥ T952
♦ 97
♣ JT5432

♠ AJ62
♥ QJ876
♦ Q4
♣ 97

♠ K98753
♥ A
♦ AKT86
♣ A

♠ Q4
♥ K43
♦ J532
♣ KQ86

West	North	East	South
Gower	Thomson	Apteker	Beauchamp
		1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♠			

This was an impressive auction to the grand slam!

2NT promised four card trump support and limit or better hand.

6♦ asked for 3rd round ♦ control and West was able to bid 7.

Alon Apteker presumed with a ten card trump fit, that the trump Q was not an issue!

Dealer: West

Both vulnerable

♠ -
♥ A108764
♦ Q7653
♣ J9

♠ AK973
♥ Q
♦ K4
♣ A7653

♠ J1086
♥ -
♦ J1082
♣ KQ1042

♠ Q542
♥ KJ9532
♦ A9
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
Minwalla	Thomson	Minwalla	Beauchamp
1♠	2♠	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
X	Pass	Pass	Pass

2NT promised five ♥s and a Five card minor.

6♥ It is often wrong to bid 5 over 5, but bidding 6 over 5 was a gamble - down 1 was a great result, but I would have looked silly if E/W had bid on to 6♠.

Dealer: East

	♠ -	
	♥ A10	
	♦ KQ8742	
	♣ AK1094	
♠ K952		♠ A7643
♥ Q10542		♥ KJ863
♦ J		♦ A96
♣ J82		♣ -
	♠ QJ108	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 1053	
	♣ Q7653	

West	North Thomson	East	South Beauchamp
		1♠	Pass
2♠	4NT	4♠	5♣
5♠	6♣	X	Pass
Pass	Pass		

4NT promised 6/5 or 6/6 shape in minor suits.

4♠ was insufficient, but the director said I could as South accept the call, so I did !

6♣ was a good choice – West led ♠2 so the slam made, but we would go 1 down on an unlikely ♦lead.

Sadly in Australia, there are very few national matchpoint events.

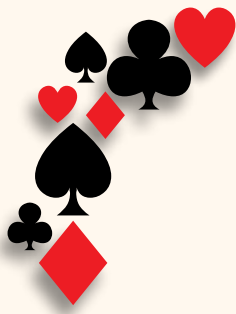
I really enjoyed the experience of spending time in Cape Town and participating in the South African nationals.

We were made very welcome by all the players and organizers.

The winners of the pairs event were Rob Stephens and Bernard Donde (members of current SA team) with Ian and myself a close 2nd.

Next years event will be held in late February.

David Beauchamp



Hi All Bridge - Teams enthusiasts

As you may or may not know Roz Bernstein after many, many good years of running things, has handed the baton over to me.

What exactly am I talking about?

ANS:- The Thursday Night - once a Month - National - BBO - Teams Competition

For those who do not know about this competition, let me just say it is very low key, lots of fun and if you ever thought about playing Teams, (just to test the waters), this is the competition for you.

We aim to start things up again - 2nd Thursday night in August and we're aiming to branch out into THREE SECTIONS of 8 , 8 and 8 or maybe even 9 , 9 and 9. But that means a bit of elbow grease to grow the numbers a little.

So for starters, there are quite a healthy number of existing Teams already entered and in the process of re-entering, and those particular captains have already been emailed by me (directly). But again the purpose of this write-up is to talk to those who "ARE NOT" aware of this little event.

For starters it is "FREE" (and what is ever free these days) & it's super flexible, as it is a Once a Month commitment that can be rescheduled, if the particular Thursday fixture in question isn't working for you or your team. Of course the plan is to try one's best not to reschedule, after-all you have an opponent that was most probably more than ready to play as per the fixture, but sometimes "life" gets in the way. It's officially every 2nd Thursday night 7:00p.m. on BBO, but again you can happily change the starting time, if you and your opp.'s are in agreement.

So if you have a few bridge playing friends, (three would be about right), who want to give TEAMS a go, please get in touch with me & if you have questions and still need clarity again I'm one email away.

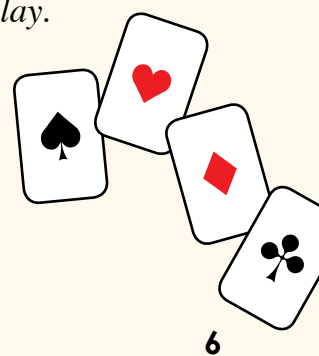
And NOTE - Happy to take entries of pairs, "looking" for other pairs to be teamed up with. Will do my best to accommodate everyone as we would love to see the numbers grow.

BUT - Folks - will be closing entries Sunday the **30th July** - So please do not delay.

Duncan Craggs

084-317-9825 (whatsapp's and calls)

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Helen Kruger as we all know has been our South African representative on the African Bridge Federation for many years but last year was elected to join the WBF executive committee. The following article was first published in the GBU bulletin and gives Helen's account of how this transpired and the work it entails



It was the year for the incoming World Bridge Federation executive committee to be elected from 82 countries in the world for a 5 year cycle. The committee consists of 21 members.

There were 19 applications and only 3 would be voted in and to my astonishment I was one. The AGM was held in Poland and voting was very strictly monitored.

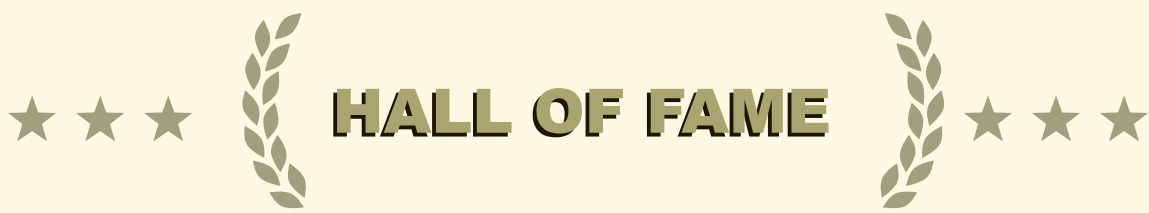
But more than that, to my absolute astonishment the new president Jan Kameron in selecting his management committee, chose to include me.

This committee of 5, consisting of a president, 2 vice, a treasurer and me run world bridge affairs, from planning championships, vetting new rules, and handling problems in different countries and there are quite a few of those.

We meet regularly in different countries, and the flow of emails is enormous.

I am the first South African to be included on the executive committee and it is really a great honour, but I have so much to learn, we don't realise in our small bridge community what really goes on in the bridge politics which has to be handled very delicately in some instances.

Helen Kruger



At our recent AGM held in Cape Town a motion was proposed and accepted that **Tim Cope** be entered into our **Hall of Fame**.

Here then is a summary of his many achievements –

Tim took up bridge at the age of 12 in 1966 and in 1970 was the British schools champion and part of the England Junior team in 1974. He won his first British championship in 1979. He moved to South Africa in 1983 and won his first national title with Brian Mervis in 1984. This was followed by several national teams and pairs victories with a number of different partners but notably Glen Holman, Chris Bosenberg and Henry Mansell. He represented South Africa internationally continuously from 1992 to 2011 reaching the Bermuda Bowl semi-finals in 2007. He was barred from representing South Africa by SASCOC as he had retained his British citizenship but was later reaccepted and qualified to play in 2020 but COVID and poor eyesight intervened. He was invited twice to World Individual championships for the leading 28 players in the world.

Tim was a member of Western Cape committee for 30 years including 13 years as Chairman and also a member of the SABF committee for 11 years as Vice president.

Due to poor eyesight Tim is no longer able to play face to face bridge, but remains at the forefront of bridge teaching in SA as well as internationally. He is the only South African to be invited to join the BBO panel of experts where he contributes monthly and the only South African to be invited to join the Australian panel of experts for their magazine.

And finally a testimonial from one of his regular partners, Glen Holman.

I am delighted to see Tim Cope's addition to the **SABF Hall of Fame**. I had the privilege of playing with Tim for over a decade. Watching Tim play at the highest levels of the game was something special. I was lucky to see the opponents' faces turn from confidence to apprehension when they saw that Tim was going to be at the table. Tim was once described as the human backboard of bridge. Whatever an opponent hit at him often came back with interest. In addition to usually being error free, Tim plays the ultimate partnership game, one thing he had to teach me. In addition, the fact that hands that you did well in small tournaments would be losses in international competition. I would like to end this with my 5 favorite match events where Tim's performance was virtuoso. #5 would be a match versus the Dutch in the Vanderbilt where Tim's play left them with no chance. #4 would be the Challenge the Champs competition where Tim and I lost the semifinal in their competition of the decade. #3 would be a match against Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood where Michael said about Tim that no one had played that well against him in many a year. #2 would be Verona where we had to play 15 sessions of matchpoints in a row, too much for most people but not Tim. Finally the #1 would be the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai.

I would like to thank the SABF for recognizing Tim for his international play and domestic teaching.

Glen Holman

★ ★ ★ Joy Rothenberg ★ ★ ★

At time of writing we are still awaiting SASCOC, but on the assumption that our application for colours will meet with their approval Joy will set a national and possibly international record for being the oldest person to receive colours for the first time for an Olympic sport.

Joy was born in Johannesburg in the early 1930s and as a young woman learnt to play bridge as a necessary social requirement. Back in the day if you couldn't play bridge then you wouldn't be invited to dinner parties which typically ended with a few hands of bridge! Joy was soon bitten by the bug and it was not long before she was teaching others and holding lessons two or three times daily. Bridge was to become one of Joy's passions in life and she together with Paul Mestern founded the Rivonia bridge club in Johannesburg. This started off with just two tables but steadily grew until there were regularly more than thirty tables twice weekly. Joy's other bridge achievements included the publishing of her book *"Bridge for Beginners to Advanced"* by Exclusive Books which became their no. 1 best seller for three months in a row. Joy believes that bridge still remains a social asset for individuals and joining your local bridge club wherever you may be is as useful way of quickly integrating into the social side of the local community. It goes without saying that Joy attributes her excellent mental health in great part to the fact that she still regularly plays bridge, but less well known is that Joy swims daily be it summer or winter which goes a long way to explaining why she is more sprightly than many women half her age.

Joy stills lives in Johannesburg surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Up Over vs Down Under

This has got to be in the running for one of the most enjoyable tournaments so far this year. Organized by RealBridge and with more than 400 pairs entering, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand were pitted against players from all corners of the British Isles and Canada. Chatting to players from around the globe was a real treat.

Locally Sheila Francis & Charmaine Lobel and Jocelyn Ashberg & Susan Ashberg took honours coming respectively second and third in their pool B1 club players – there were 4 pools, Experts, club players (2) and Intermediates- and in these 4 pools the best South African performances were Paul Inbona & Greg Hingle, Sheila Francis & Chairmaine Lobel, Jen Milne & Lorraine Kinross and Mandy Meyerowitz & Tracy Kaplan.

Shireen Mohandes from RealBridge tells us another tournament is being arranged for November.

Roman Signals: Why are they banned in South Africa?

Firstly, to make sure we are all on the same page, a signal is a card that is played when we are following suit. It is an unforced play where the player has a choice of which card to play, and this allows him to send a message to his partner. Most players play attitude signals, where in standard methods a high card is encouraging, or count signals where a high card shows an even number. Players playing upside down signals reverse these meanings.

When playing Roman signals, an odd card is encouraging and an even card is discouraging and shows suit preference. A high even card asks for the higher-ranking remaining suit and a low even card asks for the lower-ranking remaining suit. This sounds like a great idea as the player can encourage a continuation of the suit led or discourage a continuation, and at the same time tell partner to which suit to switch. So why is this method banned in South Africa and most of the bridge world?

- 1.** Roman signals create a problem when you are required to give a signal but have very few cards to choose from. Typically, partner has led the Ace of his long suit and you will only have 1, 2 or even 3 cards to play making it very likely that you do not have the correct card to indicate your intentions. Even a momentary hesitation will convey unauthorized information that you do not have the correct card, and partner will ignore your signal.
- 2.** It is the dual nature of the signal that is objectionable. An even card that is both discouraging and indicates suit preference, increases the likelihood that you will not have the correct card to play. In addition, you may be unsure which suit you would prefer partner to play. In this situation, you would like to discourage without suggesting a switch to a particular suit. Again, unless you are able to play smoothly and in tempo throughout (there are only a handful of players worldwide who are able to do this), you will be giving your partner unauthorized information when you use this method.
- 3.** Roman discards are allowed and are perfectly legal. The reason why is that when you are discarding you often have a fistful of cards to choose from, and therefore are likely to have the correct card to signal. In my experience this is not completely true as you often want to discourage a suit, but are not sure to which suit partner should switch.
- 4.** Odd-even signals. These are similar to Roman signals but are legal. An odd card is encouraging and an even card is discouraging. The difference is that an even card carries no suit preference suggestion. If you like and are used to Roman signals, I suggest you switch to odd-even signals which are allowed.

You may think that Roman signals have been banned because they are so good that they convey an unacceptable advantage to the defenders. This is not true. Proponents of the method will quote hands where their Roman signal encouraged partner to switch to a suit, which they ruffed, and got a good cross ruff going. This is very rare, and far more likely is that partner will make a poor switch, giving away the contract. Roman signals also encourage players not to think when defending. The argument given is that partner requested a switch to a particular suit, and his request was obeyed. Bridge is a partnership game, and only by combining partner's signal, your own hand and bridge logic, will you be able to find the best defence.

I hope that this article has clearly explained why Roman signals have been banned. Not only are they unfair conveying unauthorized information, but they are frequently a poor method of signalling in situations where you do not have the correct card.

Here are 3 lead problems for you. Then see what happened.

1. MPs, Love All.

The bidding was swift –

1D by North – 1H by South / 1NT rebid by N – 4H / All Pass.

Choose a lead.



2. Africa Trials, IMPs. All Vul.

W	N	E	S
			1♣
P	2♣*	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

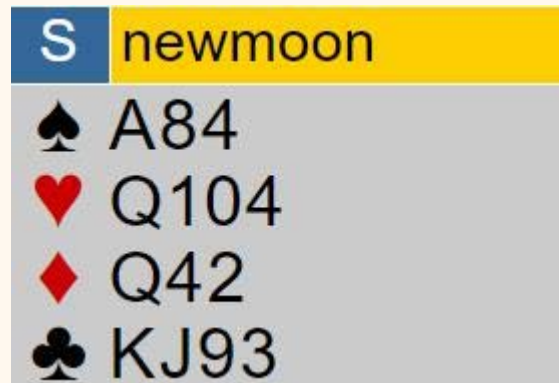


*2♣ was an inverted raise (10+, club support, no major).

Your lead?

3. BBO robot game. Love All.

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♣
1♦	1♠	P	P
X	P	2♥	2♠
P	P	3♠	P
4♥	P	P	P



QUIZ: Your lead this time?

High Level Value Doubles (v2)

Tony Truluck

High Level Value Doubles

So let's pick up where we left off in the last bulletin....

Simply stated, when opponents bid at the five level, a pass says

(i) 'I have bid my hand and have nothing more to show, therefore I am passing the decision to you'.

A double conveys the message:

(ii) 'I have better values for my bidding to date and a hand which should play well at the five level or higher, but I have no control in the opponent's suit(s).

When partner doubles:

(i) With a control in their suit and full values for your bidding, bid your suit at the next higher level

A cue bid would convey the message that:

(iii) 'I have full values for my bidding to date, I have control of the suit in which I just cue bid and, by implication, I therefore also have a control in at least one of their suits'. Why is the control in their suits implied, refer to (ii). (One of these controls MUST be 1st round. Ace or void)

The problem most pairs have is that they play the 'Forcing Pass'.

What does 'forcing pass' mean?

I have played using forcing pass and played against people who are playing it. Nobody seems to have any way to show different hand types and strengths.

Both vul: dealer east

♠ 4	♠ 75
♥ AQJ8	♥ K752
♦ J104	♦ AQ972
♣ A8642	♣ KQ

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	2 ♠ (weak)
X	4 ♠	?	

When this hand occurred, east passed over 4 ♠ as he had no information about west's hand other than that he held four hearts. Now the onus fell upon west to find the best course of action; with no idea as to whether east was good or bad, he guessed wrong and doubled. The crazy thing is that a partnership can discuss this hand until the next ice age and come to no sensible conclusion. The very next similar deal to arise will also produce the same guessing game and, as likely as not, will produce a similarly poor result.

However if east is able to introduce a value double showing that he is full value for his opening bid, the ability to play in 5 ♦ or 5 ♥, but with no control in opponents suit, west can continue on to 5 ♦ which east will convert to 5 ♥. Both red suit contracts succeed while 4 ♠ doubled nets a measly +200.

If you consider this theory for a moment before moving on, in a forcing pass system you double to show a poor hand and you pass to show a good one! Is that logical? It is certainly contrary to every other area of the game.

Using the 'Value Double approach, you pass to show a poor hand and double to show a good one!

When forcing pass sequences arise most partnerships will get the whole thing wrong at least half of the time. If you have no agreement at all and by just sticking to the principle that the five level is for the opponents, your success rate will be about the same.

The only occasion that a pass should become forcing is where one player has already shown a powerful hand but has the wrong shape for a value double.

Dealer West, EW vulnerable

- ♠ AK
- ♥ 542
- ♦ AKQ64
- ♣ AQJ

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	P	2 ♦	4 ♥
?			

West has no more than he has shown with his 2 ♣ opening, and a double would be primarily for takeout. West is, therefore, much better placed with a pass, leaving it to east to take whatever action he sees fit. Should east venture a spade bid, west will know that he has five or more cards in that suit whereas, had west doubled, and east bid spades, he would have no idea as to how many spades, or how many of any suit east may have.

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| ♠ AK | ♠ 9864 |
| ♥ 542 | ♥ 10 |
| ♦ AKQ64 | ♦ J65 |
| ♣ AQJ | ♣ K10432 |

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	P	2 ♦	4 ♥
P	P	5 ♣	P
6 ♣			

East has the first bite with his 5 ♣ bid! With no control in hearts he would double, so 5 ♣ is a suit AND a heart control! No problem bidding a slam here. You know that there is only 1 loser on the hand.

Is this how you would like to play bridge, it is certainly the way I like to play!

This next hand shows a further aspect of value doubles.

Love all, Dealer South.

♠ AK1064

♥ 7653

♦ 94

♣ K3

♠ 95

♥ Q10

♦ AQ10752

♣ AQ7

♠ Q

♥ AKJ94

♦ KJ6

♣ J854

♠ J8732

♥ 82

♦ 83

♣ 10962

(i)	North	East	South	West	(ii)	North	East	South	West
			P	1 ♦				P	1 ♦
	1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♠	X		1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♠	X*
	P	P	P			P	6 ♦	P	

On auction (1). West had no option but to double 4 ♠ and east could see no reason to remove it. In room 2 however, over 4 ♥ west was able to use a value double showing full values for the bidding to date, the desire to play in either diamonds or hearts at the five level (or higher), but with no spade control. East was now able to bid 6 ♦ offering west the choice of two slam contracts. As slam was likely to score well, west opted for diamonds as the safer spot.

Note that, playing value doubles, it is easier to bid a slam when the opponents interfere and pre-empt!

Here is a further example: EW vulnerable, Dealer North

♠ AQJ10875

♥ J

♦ 42

♣ A108

♠ K

♥ AKQ10963

♦ K52

♣ 93

♠ 32

♥ 7852

♦ AQ10

♣ KQ42

♠ 964

♥ 4

♦ J9876

♣ J765

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	P	P	4 ♥
4 ♠	X	P	?

We have all been here many times. However, this time you have the weapon to cope with the situation. When east doubles 4 ♠ he is showing a hand that has enough to play at the five level with no control in spades. West has an easy 5 ♥ bid which nets +650 rather than the measly 300 from 4 ♠ X (the result that came through from the other room).

If that is not enough to convince you:-
Try this auction on the same deal...

North	East	South	West
	P	P	1 ♥
4 ♠	X	P	?

East's double is exactly the same as before. Values to compete higher, no control in spades!
Now look at this deal.

All vulnerable, Dealer East

	♠ AQJ10843		
	♥ 10		
	♦ KQ42		
	♣ 3		
♠ J762		♠ -	
♥ 76543		♥ AK982	
♦ -		♦ 1053	
♣ QJ87		♣ A10954	
	♠ K5		
	♥ QJ		
	♦ AJ9876		
	♣ K62		

North	East	South	West
	1 ♥	2 ♦	4 ♦
4 ♠	?		

Again, playing value doubles, the opponents bidding will assist you in finding your best contract!

When north bids 4 ♠, east can bid 5 ♣ showing full value for his opening bid, the ace of clubs and a control in spades as your partner has already shown a diamond control. If south were to pass, west would have a free cue bid of 5 ♦ and east might well bid the slam now! If north were kind enough to double 5 ♦ that could be passed to west who will re-double to show first round control! This will enable east to bid 6 ♥ with confidence.

To summarise, it seems that the days where you encountered problems posed by opponents pre-empts can rapidly come to an end as you can utilise their bidding to full advantage. The purpose of high pre-empts has always been to restrict the enemy's bidding space and thereby prevent them from showing all of their controls. Playing value doubles with their various options, we are able to effectively cue two suits with one bid, immediately negating a large part of the nuisance value of opponents pre-empts.

You will need to practice your value doubles; at the table you may well encounter situations where there will be some doubt, but you will have a far greater chance to get it right and, in the long run, you will achieve a string of very handsome results with which to impress your teammates.

Tony Truluck

With the advent of COVID a teaching initiative was set up by Arie Ridderhof and Carol Stanton whereby Carol would offer online courses for beginners based on a book written by the Australian Paul Marston called *“Introduction to Bridge”*. SABF’s involvement in this initiative was an agreement to supply a copy of this book free and offer free SABF membership for a year to all those attending the course. SABF would also set up a database of attendees for further mentoring once the course was finished which took the form of weekly free tournaments on RealBridge run by Rod Pienaar. Over time this initiative was expanded to include other teachers from around the country where similar courses were held.

The SABF committee has recently decided to put this initiative on a more formal footing by establishing a sub-committee headed up by Arie Ridderhof responsible for coordinating and where possible standardizing the teaching of beginners nationwide. We are well aware of the fact that we have many competent teachers around the country who have their own methods in place but for those who require help in this area Carol has built up a large library of teaching material based on this book which we would make freely available to them.

So this is what the sub-committee offers teachers out there –

- a) A free copy to the teachers of the series of training books written by Paul Marston
 - Introduction to Bridge
 - Principles of Card Play
 - Language of Bidding
- b) A free copy of *“Introduction to Bridge”* for their pupils, the other books will be available to them at discounted prices
- c) Free membership to SABF for their pupils for a year
- d) Free weekly tournaments on RealBridge (soon to be expanded to BBO)
- e) Free access to teaching material

In addition to the above prospective teachers will be invited to attend a “Teach the Teachers” course run by Carol Stanton on successful completion of which they will be certified as such by the SABF

If this teaching is of interest to you and you would like more information or to be kept informed on the status of the initiative then please contact Arie at arie.ridderhof@gmail.com

The SABF committee

1. In this covid-era event West led the S9 which was a disaster when East followed with the queen. Declarer simply drew trumps then parked two clubs on the diamonds. A spade up from hand ensured the 12th trick. At all the other tables the CK was lead.

Board 17
Dealer N
None Vul

♠ J763
♥ AQ10
♦ AQ96
♣ J5

< >

♠ K1092
♥ 7
♦ J8754
♣ KQ2

♠ A85
♥ K986542
♦ K
♣ 83

♠ Q4
♥ J3
♦ 1032
♣ A109764

Par +450 4♥+1 NS

		NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	7	8	11	6	5	
S	7	8	11	6	5	
E	2	4	1	7	7	
W	2	4	1	7	7	

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	MP
Roslyn Whitburn & Sid Ismail	Richard Moore & Nick Buratovich	4♥+2 S	♠9	480	6 0
neels kloppers & vanessa woltersdorf	Winston P Callaghan & Priscilla Fuller	4♥+1 S	♣K	450	2 4
Helen Roberts & barbara goldman	howard veale & Eric Annegarn	4♥+1 S	♣K	450	2 4
Deirdre Ingersent & Patricia Eve	bridie bullen-smith & Diana Boudewijns	4♥+1 S	♣K	450	2 4

2. A funny thing happened when this West chose the ♦A for the lead. East encouraged and West followed with the king. East completed a peter then found that the diamonds were blocked in her hand. The 5th diamond never saw the light of day!

The 4th highest lead – ♦5 – would have been better!

Bd 7, Dlr S
3NT= S

♠ Q9
♥ KQ
♦ 1098
♣ AKJ763

N WAN HOI REGINE
3 NT S
Tricks taken: 9
Save adjustment

W sebti noufissa

♠ J76
♥ 9842
♦ AK653
♣ Q

♠ 10543
♥ J753
♦ QJ74
♣ 2

0
0

< > ↺

LEMARINEL Michel S

♠ AK82
♥ A106
♦ 2
♣ 109854

W N E S
P 2♣* P 2NT
P 3NT P P
P



3. Here are the full hands –

<table border="1"> <tr><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td></tr> </table>	D	1	N Robot ♠ Q1093 ♥ 73 ♦ KJ9 ♣ Q1074	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	1♣	1♦	1♠	P	P	X	P	2♥	2♠	P	P	3♠	P	4♥	P	P	P
D																												
1																												
W	N	E	S																									
	P	P	1♣																									
1♦	1♠	P	P																									
X	P	2♥	2♠																									
P	P	3♠	P																									
4♥	P	P	P																									
W Robot ♠ 76 ♥ A986 ♦ A10765 ♣ A8		E Robot ♠ KJ52 ♥ KJ52 ♦ 83 ♣ 652																										
	S newmoon ♠ A84 ♥ Q104 ♦ Q42 ♣ KJ93	4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0																										

A club lead would have defeated this contract since declarer has to lose a trick in each suit. Leading an unsupported ace meant that declarer discarded the ♣8 on a spade.

Lesson:

- "I will not lead unsupported aces, even in partner's suit"
- "I will not lead unsupported aces, even in partner's suit"
- "I will not lead unsupported aces, even in partner's suit"
- "I will not lead unsupported aces, even in partner's suit"
- ...
- ...

• Mampoor Tips •

James Grant

There's nothing new about this tip but because I could give it a catchy name I decided to include it.

Look before you Leap

We're all guilty of this. How often have you overtaken partner's winner then spent the next 5 minutes wondering what to lead back? If you didn't know beforehand let partner hold the trick and he can spend the next 5 minutes wondering what next to lead. Declarer plays a low card from dummy and you rush up with the ace and then start thinking about how you should defend the hand – perhaps playing low was the best defence but now it's too late. This error can arise at any stage of the game whether we are playing the hand or defending, but it occurs most often at trick 1 when we are Declarer.

Here is a typical example of what I am talking about.

Bidding

Dealer South

NS vul

South	W	N	E	S
♠ AQ				1D
♥ -	1H	pass	4H	5C
♦ KQ10982	pass	5D	pass	pass
♣ AQJ53				

West leads the ♥ A and the following dummy goes down

North

♠ 6542

♥ 963

♦ 7543

♣ 102

South

♠ AQ

♥ -

♦ KQ10982

♣ AQJ53

Declarer ruffed low, an automatic play that many of us would make, then set about thinking about how he would arrive at making his contract. As long as the diamonds behaved and West held the ace he would have time to lead a small club from his hand towards the ten in dummy and later dispose of his spade losers. But this was not to be

Here is the full hand

North

♠ 6542
♥ 963
♦ 7543
♣ 102

West

♠ KJ109
♥ AKQ75
♦ J
♣ 987

East

♠ 873
♥ J10842
♦ A6
♣ K64

South

♠ AQ
♥ -
♦ KQ10982
♣ AQJ53

At trick 2 Declarer led a top diamond won by East who immediately switched to a spade. Declarer had to finesse this in the hope East held the king but this trick lost and Declarer drifted one down.

Had he followed this Mampoer tip he would have thought about how he should continue his play before playing to trick 1 and realized that by ruffing high in his hand he could create an entry in dummy in trumps and give himself the extra chance of finessing East for the ♣K

♠♥ **Ranking Changes - July 2023** ♦♣

Aras Apteker	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
John Bowen	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Nisha Chetty	Regional Master	The Links Bridge Club
Duncan Craggs	National Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Pippa Faul	Regional Master	KZN Midlands
Carl Fuchs	Regional Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Ian Glenn	Life Master	Western Cape
Dee Larsen	Regional Master	KZN Midlands
Margaret Morgan	Regional Master	Sunshine Coast
Torquil Paterson	National Life Master	Sunshine Coast
Mike Potgieter	Regional Master	Outeniqua
Di Rosslee	Grandmaster	The Links Bridge Club
Phyllis Rubin	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Pam Sanders	Regional Master	BBO club
Zelda Silverman	National Master T	he Links Bridge Club
Andre Wagener	Regional Master	Western Cape
Peter Ward	Gold Life Master	Garden Route
Hildegard Zodi	National Life Master	Hillbrow