



PROMOTING THE GAME OF BRIDGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

EDITION 1

DECEMBER 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT



For my Christmas stocking as the new president of the SABF

“Dear Father Christmas,
I’m fond of oranges and really like candy,
A new pack of cards would come in handy,
And dear, dear Santa it would really be divine
If our average age was 45 instead of 89
And dear Santa, if you love me at all,
Couldn’t our national team once win the Bermuda Bowl?
But most of all Santa, and now comes the rub,
Please, please, please let my team win the Interclub

Forget the oranges and I’m not that fond of candy,
I don’t need a pack of cards although that would be handy,
Being 45 again I’m sure would be divine
But I will be delighted to get to 89
And dear Santa I know you have a soul,
We’re just glad to be in the Bermuda Bowl,
But most of all Santa, even if we sub,
Please, please, please let my team win the Interclub.”

(With apologies to A A Milne.)

And this is my Christmas present to you, if you have never read “King John’s Christmas” go and read it now and even if you have read it before, read it again – it will cheer you up. Then read it to your grandchildren as your Christmas gift to them...)

I don’t really believe in miracles, but I do believe that between us we could weave a little magic and breathe a little more fun into bridge. Sure, we’ll be looking at blogs, tweets, Facebook and Instagram as ways of communicating in the coming year but being old fashioned I still feel that talking to each other has its own appeal. There are so many good things happening out there that you, your club, or your union is doing. The rest of us would really enjoy knowing about them and what better way to get it out there than writing a letter or sending us an article that we can publish? So, this small bulletin is a simple experiment. It has no competitions, prizes, sponsors and is sadly short of current event articles but between us, if we are willing, we could grow it into something meaningful. The best ideas don’t come from committees; the real movers and shakers in our community are our members. But it’s the responsibility of our committees to grab good ideas with both hands and make them happen. That it might be a good idea to have a national bulletin didn’t come from the SABF but from a young lady in one of our remote clubs. So, let’s prove her right!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukah, a safe and peaceful festive season, and all the very best in the new year.

James Grant

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES' TRIALS

The right to represent South Africa in the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be played in Carrara on Oz's Gold Coast in April next year was up for grabs and was hotly contested by eight pairs in mid-November. The final leader board looked like this:

#	PAIR	TOTAL VIPs
1	Craig Gower and Peter Ward	159.52
2	Jenni Gautschi and Peta Balderson	156.11
3	Greg Hingle and Di Rosslee	147.49
who will make up South Africa's first team, and		
4	André van Niekerk and Jannie Blomerus	138.75
5	Bev Hewitt and Trishe Crosse	133.23
6	Patrick Hansen and Valerie Taylor	130.58

who will form our second team at the Games.



Craig Gower

Peter Ward

Greg Hingle

Jenni Gautschi and Peta Balderson

Di Rosslee

THE SABF INTER-CLUB

Relative newcomers, the A B C team of **Robert Stephens, Lotte Sorensen, Bernard Donde, Noah Apteker and James Grant** had a very good win in the recent Inter-Club championship, played in Johannesburg against a powerful field of 18 teams.



Robert Stephens



Lotte Sorensen



Bernard Donde



Noah Apteker



James Grant

The Hillbrow Bridge Club, represented by **Craig Gower, Alon Apteker, Merle Modlin, Nicola Bateman and Larry Chemaly** came in second.



Alon Apteker and Craig Gower



Nicola Bateman and Merle Modlin



Larry Chemaly

with last year's winners, the J B C team of **Neville Eber, Chris Bosenberg, Val Bloom, Tas Nestoridis and Jeff Sapire** ending in third place. Full results can be found, as always, on the SABF web-site, www.sabf.co.za. What was very disappointing was the absence of teams from the strong Western and Southern Cape clubs. Contrary to a popular misconception, Cape visitors to Gauteng do NOT need visas!

A CHRISTMAS BRIDGE FABLE

by John C. Swanson



"Nice bidding." I suppose at Christmas dinner one would expect to hear 'Nice pudding' instead. But when the entire group plays bridge, admittedly some with more enthusiasm than others, such comments are commonplace. Partner and I had played a session on the Internet Christmas Eve and I was showing one of the deals. Six diamonds was a great contract. After partner had shown diamond support and the heart void by jumping to four hearts the small slam was easy. The danger was getting to a grand slam - not that seven diamonds would have been an unreasonable contract.

The Bidding went like this:

North
 ♠ KJ973
 ♥ ---
 ♦ KQ54
 ♣ AKT9

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♦	All P

South
 ♠ A2
 ♥ QJ65
 ♦ AT863
 ♣ J3

The lead was the ♥T. I ruffed and cashed the ♦K, everyone following. "What's the best line?" My better half was distracted with hostess-type duties giving my brother-in-law the first crack. "Two spades, five diamonds, three clubs, and two ruffs in dummy will be sufficient. Of course, there needs to be a trump in dummy when I take the club finesse." "And there is the little matter of having two entries to your hand - one to ruff a heart and one to pull the last trump, assuming trump are three-one and they must be, or this wouldn't be a problem." My wife had joined the analysis. Her sister spotted the key play. "Give up a club immediately by leading the ten. This also provides the extra entry with the ♣J." The group approved of the play and offered her congratulations. "It's not quite over," I interjected. "The ♣T holds the trick." "Who were you playing against?" Sid asked incredulously. I ignored the question, asking another. "So now how do you play?" Brother-in-law was ready, "Cash two spades, ruff the third with the ♦A, back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff another spade." "That was my idea, but when I led the second spade towards the king, my left-hand opponent discarded a heart. It seemed the defence didn't want to win any tricks. Are there any chances remaining?" By this time my wife, at the bottom of the enthusiasm list, was giving me the look, so I didn't wait for a response. "I could have come to the ♦A and let the ♣J ride if the diamonds didn't split (they didn't) but instead ran all the trumps coming down to:

North	South
♠ 9	♠ -
♥ -	♥ QJ6
♦ -	♦ -
♣ AK9	♣ J

LHO threw the nine and king of hearts while RHO threw two spades and two low hearts. The simple play is to win the top clubs hoping the ♣Q will fall. I could also try to endplay either opponent; by leading the ♣J to the ace and tossing RHO in with a spade, or by running the ♣J and then leading a heart. But for either of those to win the opening leader must have under-led both the ace and king of hearts on the go." "So, what happened?" Everyone was interested. "I had taken a long, long time to play the hand. The opponents had already announced that this was the last hand." "Who were they?" Another group question. "One had the moniker 'Rudy' and the other 'Nick'. I had not seen them on OK before." Silence, then 'Nice coffee' from my sister-in-law.

(John C. Swanson, Jr., born 1937, is an American bridge player living in Lancaster, California. Swanson has won 1 Bermuda Bowl and 5 North American Bridge Championships and is a renowned writer of humorous bridge stories, frequently with a Christmas theme)



For those of you that don't know Barbara Smith, she is a talented bridge player and a constant at the Hillbrow, Johannesburg and Links Bridge Clubs. Back in the eighties, she wrote a regular bridge column in the Financial Mail, featuring stories both humorous and instructive. This one is entitled

"TOO MANY ACES"

As usual, Sunday evening family bridge was fast, furious and frequently prone to errors on both sides. Our opponents were Dick the Dauntless (nothing fazes him) and Dynamite Dee, so-called on account of her explosive and dangerous outbursts. My first experience of one of these outbursts occurred many years' ago when Dynamite proved to me by practical demonstration, that when dealing with an over-critical spouse, nothing beats a well-aimed shoe! This was *not* that hand:

	J4 -- 542 AKQT8732	
AT AK876 A8763 J		7 9643 KQJ9 9654
	KQ986532 QJT2 T --	

W	N	E	S
		P	4S
4NT	X	5D	P
P	6C	P	6S
X	P	P	P

I held the West cards on the above deal, and when Dick bid 4S, I called 4NT showing a strong two-suiter. Dynamite doubled and Kaplan the Unreasonable (my husband) bid 5D. Dauntless passed, but when Dynamite bid 6C, Dauntless converted to 6S. This I doubled with glee and alacrity! After all, they were in a slam missing three aces including the ace of trumps!! Well, what would you lead after this bidding? If, like me, you

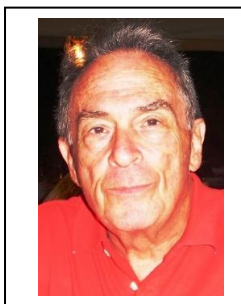
thoughtlessly and unwisely led the HA, you'd give the opponents 1660 points for making the doubled slam. This lead allowed Dick to trump his baby heart on the table. On the CA, he discarded his losing diamond. He trumped a diamond, and confident that I held the HK, played the HQ. Either way, I was dead. If I covered, he'd trump with the knave in dummy; if I ducked, he'd keep playing heart honours until he had no losers in the heart suit. Eventually, I made only the ace of trumps' and Dauntless, taking full advantage of my error, emerged triumphant.

If you decided to lead the DA, you would have done better than I on the hand, but more by good luck than judgement. *The correct lead against this type of bidding is the ace of trumps*, for then you can make further informed decisions once you have seen dummy. Note that the ace of trumps, then the DA and then the HA ensures that declarer goes down two, for he must still concede a heart trick – your side gains 500.

When Kaplan "complimented" me on my choice of lead, I could only agree with him. Somehow, this was not a time for throwing things, except, perhaps, at myself.

Barbara Smith

FROM THE EDITOR



This publication is envisaged as probably a quarterly, but maybe more frequent, with this being the first edition. We hope, in 2018, to publish at least four more issues – Easter, Winter, Spring and Christmas. How long they are, and what's in them, will rely to a great deal on what you, the reader, sends me. I especially would like to hear from Union committee members, Club owners and Club committee members – what has, is and will be happening in your Unions and Clubs.

These can take the form of forthcoming events, past performances, weird and wonderful hands, interesting rulings, and lots and lots of pictures. Please send stories in doc or docx (*never pdf as I cannot edit these*) and the pix in j-peg format to sabre@matrixnet.co.za.

It only remains for me to wish you and yours much joy, health and happiness over the coming holiday season and for 2018!

Stephen Rosenberg