



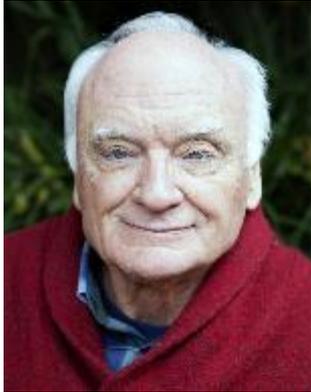
PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the things we do much better than our neighbours is making use of the Internet and BBO. We ran a highly successful interprovincial tournament last year on BBO, a feat we have every intention of repeating this year. Also, under the capable supervision of Roz Bernstein, we have been running a BBO league for local teams for the last couple of years. Speaking of which, when I was attending the African Bridge Federation's AGM in Casablanca in June, yes, sometimes it really is fun being president!, I took the opportunity to invite its members to join our league. None of these countries are big enough to run a league of their own so I am hoping that some of them will take up the offer and give us the opportunity to play teams from the rest of Africa. Given that I was going to be there anyway the ladies' team kindly asked me to be their captain, an honour I was happy to accept. I had the pleasure of watching them sail through the Zonals and win gold – here's looking at you, kids! The Open team were always in contention for a place but finished with the bronze but never mind, they'll always have Paris.

The other major event that took place recently was Congress in Durban. There is something rather special about playing in Durban in July. Although it's the middle of winter, it's so warm it's tempting to go for a swim – no, I didn't swim, but it was tempting. The other thing is the players down there take their bridge seriously enough to enjoy playing at this level but not so seriously that they risk being unpleasant at the table. Durban really is one of the friendliest venues in the country.

Which reminds me, they're holding their mini congress down there shortly so escape the cold for a while and sign up.

James Grant





if not of the world, at least of Africa! It's a standing ovation to our, let's face it, quite unheralded South African ladies' team who managed something that no other South African sports' team has done this year – to win an international or All African tournament. That's right, the first and only team this year to do that! Not Bafana Bafana, not Banyana Banyana, not the Proteas, not the Springboks, but our six bridge heroines, pictured below.



Left to right: Trish Crosse, Carol Stanton, Bev Hewitt, Tania Rawson, Vanessa Armstrong, Di Rosslee



This year, the All Africa Zonals were held in vibrant, exotic Casablanca in Morocco; the result was never a foregone conclusion, with all the other African members of the World Bridge Federation being represented, but a combination of skill, determination and perseverance got the girls over the final line!

As James Grant wrote “I have just returned from Morocco where the African Zonals were held this year. The Moroccans went out of their way to make us feel welcome and at home in their country and the work they put into organizing this event was outstanding. We fielded two very inexperienced teams whose lack of exposure to this level of competition was more than made up for by their enthusiasm. Both teams played their hearts out and though always serious at the table, they made many friends among the other participants through their open and cordial behaviour away from it. They did South Africa proud.

The Open team was neck-and-neck with Egypt and Morocco right up to Wednesday night but stumbled at the last hurdle on Thursday and finished in third position with bronze medals.

The ladies team's performance was simply a fairy tale. This Cinderella team was given no chance by many of our own pundits but were in the lead at the end of day 1 and continued to hold that position right to the end. It seems that all the coaching they had received from their fairy godmother (fairy godfather?) in the shape of Tim Cope really paid off! And when our national anthem was played when the girls received their gold medals, not only was it a very special day for South African bridge, but a very special day for South Africa.

We know that they will do us proud as Africa's number 1 representative in the Venice Cup to be held in China later this year. "

THE FORUM



To all bridge players everywhere in Southern Africa, the Forum has been created on the SABF website 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!

James Grant

ROUND AND ABOUT

"IN THE SOUTHERN CAPE"

Peter Ward writes "The Southern Cape Bridge Union was very privileged to secure sponsorship for 2019 from Personal Trust who committed to sponsor three fun days in Plettenberg Bay, Knysna and George as well as sponsoring our two premier red point events the Pre-Oyster Festival and the Outeniqua teams.



Peter Ward

The first of these events was held in Plett in early April. The format was teams (14 teams) pairing the more experienced players with the less experienced players. The event attracted many players who had never played in an organized bridge event. The organization and the catering were superb, and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Di and her team from Plett!

The second of these events was held in Knysna in early May. This time the format was pairs and attracted a field of 72 players, which was excellent considering that our swallows had gone back to the Northern Hemisphere. Again we managed to attract many players who are not regular club members. Many thanks to Linda and her team for an excellent morning.

One of the most interesting hands from the Knysna event was Board 5, in which, in 2/1 North opens 1S, South responded 2C game force. North rebids his six-card spade suit. South bids 3D showing his distribution. North will then bid 3NT and South with his extra points will use 4NT as quantitative and North will convert to 6NT. So, the bidding will go 1S – 2C (GF); 2S (showing 6) – 3D; 3NT – 4NT (quantitative); 6NT

In Standard American, the bidding would go like this: 1S – 2C (GF); 2S (showing 6) – 3D; 3NT – 4NT (quantitative); 6NT

An important principal here is that after 1x – 2y bidding is forcing to at least 2NT. So, then there is no need to rush the bidding and 2S is still forcing. Responder will now bid 3D. Now, here is another principal that should be adopted. When responder changes suit it is 100% forcing and therefore opener cannot pass partner's change of suit. So, opener will convert to 3NT and the bidding will go the same as above."

AND NOW – CONGRESS!

Congress, properly the South African Open Bridge Championships, was held this year in sunny Durban, with all the warmth and *bonhomie* we all accustomed to in that city by the sea! The local organising committee, of Graham Burrows, Di Adrain, Roger Wilson, Lindi Honey and Mignon Leigh under the watchful eye of Roz Bernstein and Philip Feinstein, went out of their way to ensure a successful, competitive but friendly competition; the Tournament Directors, Heidi Atkinson, Sid Ismail and Marita Ware, with that highly efficient scorer Peter Bircher also played an important role in maintaining the high standards one would expect at such a prestigious event. Some special plaudits also go to Peter's wife, Marcelline, for handling the exacting task of seeing that a Daily Bulletin was written, printed and available at the start of each day's play. The event attracted twenty teams (including a visiting Chinese team headed by well-known Henry Wu, see picture below) and seventy-eight pairs.



A scene during the gruelling Pairs' event



The visiting Chinese team; Henry Wu second from right

Detailed results can be found on the SABF website. The overall winners after days of exacting bridge were:

THE PAIRS



Imtiaz Kaprey and Maureen Narunsky of Cape Town

The runners-up were Noah Apteker and Bernard Donde (Gauteng) with Alon Apteker and Craig Gower (Gauteng) in third spot.

THE TEAMS



Left to right: Craig Gower, Alon Apteker, Noah Apteker and Bernard Donde of Gauteng

Losing to the Apteker team in the head-to-head final was the Grant team of James Grant, Larry Chemaly, Nicola Bateman and Merle Modlin of Gauteng.

I'm not quite sure of my facts, but the 17-year-old Noah Apteker (at Congress with father Alon, older brother

But after all is said and done, it is about the bridge; so here are some of the more interesting bids and plays from Congress 2019:

1. Swiss Teams, Round 2, hand 19 (contributed by Peter Bircher)

You are East. After South passes, partner bids strongly to put you into game, in hearts.

Contract 4♥. Opening lead is the king of clubs

You are staring at 4 or 5 potential losers, one in each suit and possibly 2 trumps

However, you find luck on your side when North turns up with the ♥A-J limiting your trump losers to 1

As you still have to lose a diamond and a club you need to pick up the ♠Q to make

Missing 5 to the queen, do you stake all on a spade finesse?

First, it would help to know who has the ♦A to work out how to play the spades, so you lead the ♦K. When South turns up with the ♦A you assess South's hand: with five clubs headed by the K-Q-J you "know" he can't also have the ♠Q as he would have opened the bidding. So you spurn the finesse, bang down the A-K and claim. Well bid and well played!

19		♠ Q4	Dir: S										
		♥ KJ3	Vul: E-W										
		♦ J98762											
		♣ T9											
♠ AK5	♠ JT962												
♥ A875	♥ Q964												
♦ K5	♦ Q3												
♣ A653	♣ 72												
7	♠ 873	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - 4 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - 4 4 2</td></tr> </table>		♠	NT	N	1 2 - - -	S	1 2 - - -	E	- - 4 4 2	W	- - 4 4 2
♠	NT												
N	1 2 - - -												
S	1 2 - - -												
E	- - 4 4 2												
W	- - 4 4 2												
18	♥ T2												
5	♦ AT4												
10	♣ KQJ84												

2. Swiss Teams, Round 3, hand 12 (contributed by Sid Ismail)

12		♠ J72	Dir: W										
		♥ KQ654	Vul: N-S										
		♦ AJ											
		♣ QT9											
♠ T5	♠ Q83												
♥ AJ8	♥ T93												
♦ T7652	♦ Q983												
♣ J54	♣ 762												
13	♠ AK964	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>6 3 6 6 6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6 3 6 6 6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> </table>		♠	NT	N	6 3 6 6 6	S	6 3 6 6 6	E	- - - - -	W	- - - - -
♠	NT												
N	6 3 6 6 6												
S	6 3 6 6 6												
E	- - - - -												
W	- - - - -												
6	♥ 72												
4	♦ K4												
17	♣ AK83												

The question often arises: 6 major or 6NT?

They say that in MP's 6NT is preferable since the extra 10 points could make a significant difference to your match points score. In Teams the difference in scoring is a wash and safety comes first

Strangely, with the hand below, despite IMP scoring 6NT is the SAFER choice!

Assume you get the unhelpful the lead of the ♦7 (2nd highest from a bad suit) in 6NT or 6♣

In 6NT, you are forced to lead hearts up twice and with clubs breaking you have your 12 tricks. Easy

However in Spades, you have a heart to lose so need to pin the ♠Q-10! Not so easy!

3. Pairs Qualifying, Session 1, hand 4 (contributed by Noah Apteker)

"Thought this was quite a nice hand to share from the first match yesterday afternoon. It was Bernard and I, and we were playing against Betty Letchmere-Oertel and Margie Bartlett.

The auction went:

West	North	East	South		
1♠ (P)	1NT (2♦)	♠ AT843	♠ QJ		
Dbl* (P)	3♣ (3♦)	♥ AKQ	♥ 653		
P (P)	4♣ (P)	♦ 5	♦ A82		
5♣	All Pass	♣ J532	♣ K9764		

*Dbl is takeout

I got the lead of the ♦K to my Ace. I played a heart to table and led a club; ten, king and south's ace. South continued a heart which I won and played ♣J to south's Queen. South (Betty) proceeded to lead the ♠9.

It was at this point that I fell from grace. I thought that since south had turned up with 2 hearts, 3 clubs and had bid diamonds twice in the bidding, she must be 1-2-7-3 and so to limit myself to 1 down, I hopped up with the ♠A. Whether south intended this deceptive play or not, I think it is interesting because it is the correct play as it puts

4		♠ 7652	Dir: W										
		♥ J9872	Vul: Both										
		♦ J43											
		♣ T											
♠ AT843	♠ QJ												
♥ AKQ	♥ 653												
♦ 5	♦ A82												
♣ J532	♣ K9764												
2	♠ K9	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>- 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>- 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5 - 2 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5 - 1 4 3</td></tr> </table>		♠	NT	N	- 2 - - -	S	- 2 - - -	E	5 - 2 4 3	W	5 - 1 4 3
♠	NT												
N	- 2 - - -												
S	- 2 - - -												
E	5 - 2 4 3												
W	5 - 1 4 3												
14	♥ T4												
10	♦ KQT976												
14	♣ AQ8												

4. Pairs Qualifying, Session 2, hand 1 (contributed by Sid Ismail)

Aras Apteker, sitting East and Etka Turk, were the only pair to find slam on board 1, their first deal of the day!
Aras is sitting with

♠ 9
♥ K972
♦ AKJ543
♣ K7

and the auction started:

Etka	North	Aras	South
-	3♠	4♦ ¹	P
4♠ ²	P	?	

¹ the key to getting to the right contract; doubling, although tempting with 4 hearts, just doesn't cut it. The 4♦ overcall should signify a good hand

²4♠ is a cue bid agreeing diamonds

Now bid 4NT. Partner will bid 5♠ (2 keys and the ♦Q) and you get to the slam. After South leads the ♠Q (and turns up with a void), the position of the ♥A is marked; win in dummy, draw trumps ending in hand. Then play a heart towards the Queen. South must duck to give you any difficulty. When you play a heart back and the jack pops up, magic!

Well bid by Aras Apteker (East) and Etka Turk (West) and well played by Aras.

1		♠ KJT7643	Dir: N
		♥ J5	Vul: None
		♦	
		♣ QT43	
♠	A85	♠ 9	
♥	QT6	♥ K972	
♦	Q986	♦ AKJ543	
♣	A52	♣ K7	
7	♠ Q2	♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♠ NT	
12	♥ A843	N - - - 2 -	
14	♦ T72	S - - - 2 -	
7	♣ J986	E - 6 4 - 5	
		W - 6 4 - 5	

5. Barbara Smith writes of her encounter against the Eber Team in the Swiss Teams, Match 6, board 24:

“East (Val Bloom) opened 1NT; I was sitting South and called 2♦, showing a 6-card (undisclosed) major.

Tas Nestoridis doubled, showing values and possibly a 4-card heart suit. Val then bid 3♦ and West converted to 3NT.

I was now faced with a lead from this hand:

♠ AT9762
♥ J6
♦ 6
♣ JT96

It seemed that the opposition had spades well stopped so I made, what I considered, a “safe” lead of the ♣J, which turned out very well. We took the first 5 clubs and a spade picking up a significant gain on the deal, a rare feat against the Eber Team!”

24		♠ J8	Dir: W
		♥ T872	Vul: None
		♦ Q7	
		♣ AQ842	
♠	43	♠ KQ5	
♥	K954	♥ AQ3	
♦	A8432	♦ KJT95	
♣	K7	♣ 53	
9	♠ AT9762	♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♠ NT	
10	♥ J6	N 3 - - 3 -	
15	♦ 6	S 3 - - 3 -	
6	♣ JT96	E - 4 3 - 1	
		W - 4 3 - 1	

6. Pairs Qualifying, Session 1, hand 11 (contributed by an unknown contributor)

Robert Stephens was sitting West, with his partner Neville Eber in the East seat.

The auction went as follows:

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	P
2♦ ¹	P	4♣ ²	P
4H	P	4NT	P
5♣ ³	P	6NT!	

¹ Multi ² Please bid the suit below your suit ³ 1 or 4

With spades breaking 3-2, +990 should have scored better than the spade slam.

Of course, in IMP's 6♠ is safer. There were several other pairs in 6NT. Although this should be a top, many in the “inferior” contract of 6♠ would be allowed to make all the tricks when South was wont to lead the singleton

11		♠ 62	Dir: S
		♥ AQ2	Vul: None
		♦ K943	
		♣ 9875	
♠	KJ7543	♠ AQ	
♥	8	♥ KT3	
♦	Q872	♦ A6	
♣	T4	♣ AKQJ32	
9	♠ T98	♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♠ NT	
6	♥ J97654	N - - 1 - -	
23	♦ JT5	S - - 1 - -	
2	♣ 6	E 6 3 - 6 6	
		W 6 3 - 6 6	

club, while those in 6NT got the normal heart lead, making 12. Sometimes the right bid does not receive the just rewards!

7. And to finish off, another one contributed by Noah Apteker.

“It was in our match against team Narunsky and we sat NS against Cape Town’s Rob Sulcas and Malcolm Siegel. The auction went:

West	North	East	South
-	1NT	2♦ ¹	P
2♥	P	P	2NT ²
P	3♦	all pass	

¹ showing a 6-card major

² 2NT shows both minors

1		♠ QT	Dir: N
		♥ AQJ2	Vul: None
		♦ AJ964	
		♣ J4	
♠ A98762	♠ KJ4		
♥ 4	♥ K98765		
♦ T82	♦ 5		
♣ A72	♣ KQ8		
15	♠ 53		
8	♥ T3		
12	♦ KQ73		
5	♣ T9653		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N - 2 - - -	
		S - 2 - - -	
		E 1 - 3 5 1	
		W 1 - 3 5 1	

Rob, in the East seat, led the 5♦. I could see that off the top I had 4 black suit losers and it seemed very likely that the K♥ was offside so it looked like I was going one off. However, I reckoned that my best chance was to run the lead to my 9 and I exited the 2♥!

Rob was now faced with a tough problem, it seemed very likely that his partner could have an honour and so he ducked and dummy’s 10 won. A nice little deceptive play allowed me to rack up 9 tricks and a nice +110 to complement our teammates +200.”

MASTERPOINTS by James Grant

Blue points and red points and double finesses,
Overbids, underbids, defensive successes,
Making my contract and redoubling,
These are a few of my favourite things.

OK, let’s get serious. A couple of years back we introduced a new feature that allowed tournament directors to enter local results on the database and create masterpoints directly. This meant that these points were allocated far more quickly and where an error arose through the misallocation of a SABF number say, this could be fixed easily by someone who was familiar with his or her players.

We have now extended this feature to local red point events. This means that should the results of these tournaments not be posted timeously you should address your enquiries to the appropriate tournament organizer. Hopefully this means that you will no longer be left wondering why your red points are missing, nor will you ever suffer again the frustration of wondering who to complain to, and sending off those interminable emails seeking help, most of which seemed to end up in a black hole somewhere!

Given this is the 50th anniversary of the moon landing let me sum it up by saying

“One small step for the SABF,
One giant leap for SABF members”



UP AND UP THEY GO!

On the next page, you will find 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 the Club and Local Masters. As requested, the list is in alphabetical order of surnames. Congratulations to you all on your achievements!

NAME	NEW RANKING	CLUB/UNION
Aras Apteker	Regional Master	The Links Bridge Club/GBU
Jude Apteker	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club/GBU
Shirley Armstrong	Regional Master	Port Elizabeth/ECBU
John Barlow	National Life Master	St James/KZNBU
Hendrik Bester	Regional Master	Outeniqua/ SCBU
Mohamed Bharoochi	National Life Master	KZNBU Country Members /KZNBU
Kathy Botha	National Master	Sunshine Coast/ECBU
Michael Brooks	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Margaret Brotchie	Regional Master	Port Elizabeth/ECBU
Mette Bunyan	National Master	Two Hearts/KZNBU
Jackie Burton	Regional Master	Rivonia Bridge Club/GBU
Anne Caine	Regional Master	Kloof/KZNBU
Lucille Cholerton	Regional Master	Le Domaine/KZNBU
Faith Collett	Regional Master	Port Elizabeth Ladies/ECBU
Rosanne de Klerk	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Oswald Dittrich	Life Master	Outeniqua/ SCBU
Hassan Docrat	National Life Master	KZNBU Country Members /KZNBU
Yunus Docrat	Life Master	KZNBU Country Members /KZNBU
Alison Fleming	National Master	KZNBC/KZNBU
Ethelene Galgut	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Debbie Gibbs	Regional Master	Bridge@Orchards/GBU
Ruth Ginsburg	National Master	The Links Bridge Club/GBU
Keith Greenway	Regional Master	Rivonia Bridge Club/GBU
Nathan Herscovitz	National Life Master	Johannesburg Bridge Club/GBU
Diane Jocum	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Delyse Kadish	Regional Master	Helen's Tuesday Club/GBU
Arshad Khan	Regional Master	Durban/KZNBU
Shabir Khan	National Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Elaine Kingsbury	National Life Master	Bridge@Orchards/GBU
Phillippe Klass	Regional Master	Outeniqua/ SCBU
Charmaine Lobel	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club/GBU
Yvonne Nel	National Master	East London/ECBU
Sylvaine Noyer	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Len Oberholster	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Ro Oberholster	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Nigel Orbell	Regional Master	Rivonia Bridge Club/GBU
Shazaad Patel	Regional Master	Pinelands/WCBU
Kitty Phillips	National Master	KZNBC/KZNBU
Sarah Pollack	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Shirley Pollock	National Master	East London/ECBU
Prunella Seels	Regional Master	ABC/GBU
Delys Shepard	National Life Master	Outeniqua/ SCBU
James Smith	Regional Master	Durban/KZNBU
Naomi Solomons	Gold Life Master	Port Elizabeth Ladies/ECBU
Greg Spencer	National Master	Two Hearts/KZNBU
Carol Stanton	National Master	The Links Bridge Club/GBU
Ella Steyl	Regional Master	Pinelands/WCBU
David Suzman	Regional Master	WAFT/GBU
Claire Tait	Regional Master	ABC/GBU
Jenny Ten-Bokum	Premier Life Master	KZNBC/KZNBU
Suzanne Weide	Premier Life Master	Capital/NGBU
Kay Wong	Regional Master	Sunshine Coast/ECBU

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