



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

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THE CONGRESS 2018 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have published a special edition of the bulletin to cover the national congress, our most prestigious tournament of the year. It also gives me a chance to thank once again all those who made this such a wonderful and enjoyable event.

So, my thanks go to



- The GBU, who hosted the event this year and organized the weather for us so that the Links appeared literally in its very best light.
- The Tournament Committee of Roz Bernstein, Philip Feinstein, Lotte Sorensen, Deirdre Ingersent and Heidi Atkinson who were responsible for nearly everything and whose attention to detail was extraordinary.
- The Tournament Directors – Heidi Atkinson, Sid Ismail, Lotte Sorensen, Stephen Rosenberg and Pat Verner who ensured the smooth running of the various sections.
- The Reviewer of Disputed Decisions – Tim Cope by WhatsApp from Cape Town.
- The Scorer, Peter Bircher, for setting up the movements and ensuring results along with personal scorecards were posted on the web

immediately they became available.

- The Links team of Robert Stephens, Nicky Stephens, Sheila Francis, Joan Kgomo, Richard Ramokorna, David Mogashoa, Jeffrey Serame and Fina Serame who cleaned, polished, moved furniture, served tea, sold coupons, ran errands, caddied; in short did all the background work that made it so pleasant for the rest of us.
- The Vugraph Team of Roz Bernstein, Lotte Sorensen, Nicky Stephens, Helen Kruger, Jude Apteker and Jeff Sapire who put on such a wonderful show for our head to head. But a special thanks to Lotte and Nicky for organizing the excellent dinner, and to Jeff who spiced up the evening with his interesting commentary.
- Publisher, Stephen Rosenberg, who along with his other duties ensured we had a daily bulletin of events.
- Our Webmaster, Ann Sturrock, who populated our website with all matters relating to the tournament and in such a way that the rest of the country were apprised of the results almost as quickly as the participants.
- and the cast of hundreds of players for whom it was all done; thanks for being there, playing and making it a memorable Congress.

And the cherry on the top? I finally won something – well, with a little help from my friends!

James Grant

**Where will Congress 2019 be held? Wait, and all will be revealed in due course!
Wherever it is, see you all there.**

Stephen Rosenberg

HAIL TO THE WINNERS

By the time players got to the finals, they had played a huge amount of bridge. And just getting there was a real tribute to their physical and mental stamina. Winning was of course a tribute to their skill and partnership understandings. All of which left me in total admiration for all the players and in envy of many!

Stephen Rosenberg

Before we look at the list of the first three in both Pairs and Teams in the various sections, I must pay certain special tributes to some really outstanding performances:

1. to Merle Modlin and Nicola Bateman for winning the Championship pairs, not only beating off the challenge of the New Zealand 2016 World Champions Ashley Bach and Michael Cornell, but also for being the first two ladies to take this title since Petra Mansell and Alma Schneider back in the 1970s, and for being by far the most glamorous pair to do so!



Merle and Nicola



Jude and Noah Apteker



Mudi Deen

2. to the brothers Jude and Noah Apteker – Noah (at age 16!) for being the youngest ever member of a winning team and both of them for really good performances in the Championship section of the Pairs.
3. to Mudi Deen of Nairobi (pictured here with James Grant and the other members of her President section winning team) for playing (at age 94!) virtually every session of Pairs and Teams, and for bringing her daughter SamiNa and grand-son Jimmy along to play as well.

THE PAIRS CONGRATULATIONS TO

SECTION	PLACE	PAIR	PROVINCE	POINTS
CHAMPIONSHIP	1	Merle Modlin & Nicola Bateman	GBU	1031
	2	Ashley Bach & Michael Cornell	New Zealand	1016
	3	Michael Alexander & Glen Holman	WCBU	947
CONGRESS	1	Chris Rosenberg & Neville Eber	GBU	1040
	2	Leif-Erik & Tolle Stabell	Norway	1031
	3	Roz Bernstein & Sharon Lang	GBU	946
PLATE	1	Peta Balderson & Jenni Gautschi	GBU	964
	2	Ella and Roy Danilowitz	GBU	940
	3	Jenny Foaden & Renee Kenny	GBU	933
PRESIDENT	1	Catherine Aouate & Regine Wan Hoi	Reunion	929
	2	Patsi Shefer & Jackie Solovei	GBU	922
	3	Pat Fritz & Trish McLean	GBU	916
VICE-PRESIDENT	1	Marcelle Norman & Louise Tager	GBU	1108
	2	Ebrahim Cassim & Ahmed Patel	GBU	1051
	3	Ruth Shaw & Val Taylor	GBU	1009

THE TEAMS

CONGRATULATIONS TO

SECTION	PLACE	TEAM	PROVINCE	VPs
CHAMPIONSHIP	1	Bernard Donde-Noah Apteker-Robert Stephens-Hennie Fick	GBU	73,77
	2	Alon Apteker-Craig Gower-Ashley Bach-Michael Cornell	GBU/New Zealand	1016
	3	Diniar and Nancy Minwalla-Maureen Narunsky-Imtiaz kaprey	WCBU	947

The Championship is then decided in a head-to-head final (between 1. and 2. in the Round Robin), in which the DONDE team defeated the APTEKER team 146 to 127. And note that Noah Apteker was a member of the team that defeated his father's team in the final! I wonder if that meant no pocket-money or double pocket-money for the rest of the month?



The winning team with SABF President James Grant
from left to right: Robert Stephens-Bernard Donde-Grant -Noah Apteker-Hennie Fick

CONGRESS	1	James Grant-Larry Chemaly-Nicola Bateman-Merle Modlin	GBU	144.39
	2	Neville Eber-Chris Bosenberg-Val Bloom-Tas Nestoridis-Jeff Sapire	GBU	137.98
	3	Anton der Kinderen-Sven-Ake Bjerregaard-Michael Alexander-Simon Stocken	WCBU	135.64
PLATE	1	Desiree and Errol Pieters-Chris Child-Jack Dorfan	NGBU/GBU	132.31
	2	Yunus Omar-Ismail Ebrahim-Ebrahim Moosa-Dawood Mohamed	GBU	95.89
PRESIDENT	1	Joe Israeli-Zindel-Paul Inbona-Samina Esmail-Jimmy Deen-Mudi Deen	GBU/Kenya	929
	2	Clyde Mallinson-Torquail Paterson-Paul van der Wal-Bridie Bullen-Smith-Bill Wilkie-Jan Verberek	GBU	922

Full results, of course, are available on www.sabf.co.za and click on Congress web-site.

TWO OF THE HANDS

1. THE BIG SWING

In the finals of the South African Teams Championships, held in Johannesburg in May 2018, the hand below was the biggest swing of the 48-board match. (The hand has been rotated for convenience.)

Dlr. W Vul. No	K76 A9873 54 A86	
Q85432 Q5 763 92		J9 J642 QT98 JT7
	AT KT AKJ2 KQ543	

The NS pair, pushing a little, arrived at a contract of 7C! The opening lead was the C2. There are eleven top tricks (assuming the trumps break). So, where should declarer go for the extra two? Looking at all the hands, it's easy. You could finesse to the jack of diamonds (after drawing only two rounds of trumps) and then play ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Then back to hand to draw the outstanding trump. But that's a pretty dangerous line to take; a 50-50% finesse in a grand slam, and with other options available, it can't be best. The heart suit offers good chances too. If they are 3-3, then drawing trumps, followed by king then ace of hearts and a heart ruff sets up two winners in dummy. What about combining your chances? Draw two trumps, play DA-K and ruff a diamond (if the queen falls it's all over), but if not, return a spade.

Now, king of hearts and a heart to the ace. But another option opens up when West follows with the queen on the second round. If it's a true card, then running the nine of hearts from dummy will succeed. If East covers, you ruff and have two winners, and if he doesn't, you discard and ruff the next heart.

At the table, declarer did play DA-K and ruff a diamond, and after drawing trumps played K-A of hearts and ruffed a heart in hand. When the suit failed to break 3-3 he was one down. At the other table, their opponents were in 6C making, for +920. So, his team lost 14imps, whereas making it would have gained them 11imps – a huge 25 imp swing!

As to the best line? There was a lot of discussion amongst the top players. Everyone agreed that ruffing a diamond early was right, but after that it was close as to how to tackle the heart suit. The concept of Restricted Choice would suggest that when West followed with the queen of hearts, he was less likely to have started with the jack. But all in all, a very tough decision.



Contributed by Jeff Sapire

2. NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED

by Imtiaz Kaprey



Before the start of the Teams' event, our team, the Minwallas, was invited to go out for supper at the end of the first day's play by the McLeod team. As fate would have it, we were drawn to play them in the first round! As the two M couples were close friends, we decided that Maureen (Narunsky) and I would play Wilson and Jan McLeod in the first round. Things were going well; good, friendly banter, lots of flat boards, until board 12, where the following violent auction occurred:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C ¹	P	1D	X ²
P ³	1NT ⁴	X ⁵	2D ⁶
X ⁷	P	P	XX ⁸
P	P ⁹	P ¹⁰	

and these really need some explanations:

¹ can be as short as 2	² take-out (assumed, not asked)	³ nothing to say, probably weak	⁴ natural	⁵ penalties
⁶ partner, you choose!	⁷ penalties	⁸ PARTNER, PLEASE CHOOSE NOW!	⁹ East asked, was told "must be diamonds"	¹⁰ Bring it on!

Now, before looking at the play, here's the full hand:

Dlr. W Vul. N/S	J86 T5 AJ87 KJ85	
K4 AJ3 QT2 QT732		A75 984 K964 A96
	QT932 KQ762 53 4	

A trump was led, and then the carnage began! Once the dust settled, Wilson was down three for minus 1600! The best E/W can do is 3NT for +600.

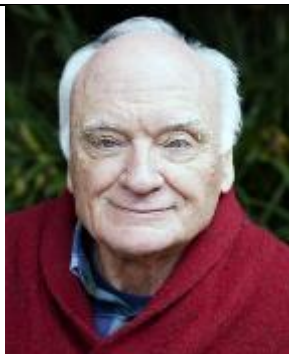
The rest of the match was played in awkward silence. I wondered whether our supper invitation still stood! It was, as long as we promised not even to mention Board 12!!

However, Wilson took great delight in pointing out to me that I had mis-defended, in that I had forgotten to give my partner a spade ruff, and that he should have down 4 for minus 2200!!!

The moral of the story is that *no good deed goes unpunished*, which fits well with my other favourite saying: *the road to hell is paved with good intentions!!!!*

THE NEW COMMITTEE

As is now the norm, the SABF AGM was held one evening during Congress, where, inter alia, the 2018/2019 SABF Committee was elected. The members are:

			Our notoriously camera-shy and very hard- working
James Grant PRESIDENT	Jocelyn Ashberg VICE-PRESIDENT	Philip Feinstein TREASURER	Sheila Francis SECRETARY

In addition to the Executive above, the Union representatives are:

NGBU: Ice Peens; **KZN:** Graham Burrows; **Eastern Cape:** Arie Ridderhof; **Southern Cape:** Peter Ward
GBU: Helen Kruger and Roz Bernstein

LOOKING into the FUTURE

Here are some of the upcoming major events throughout South Africa over the next four months. Diarise! Enter!! Win!!!



MAY		No affiliated major tournaments
JUNE	03	WCBU Teams
	08-10	Knysna Pre-Oyster
	10	Orchards Winter Challenge
	22-24	Mickey Haddad, East London
	29- }	KZN Mini-Conference}
JULY	01 }	KZN Mini-Conference}
	14-15	GBU Teams Challenge
	27-29	Port Alfred Winter Challenge
AUGUST	05	WCBU Teams
	19	WCBU Teams
	31	ECBU Mini-Congress starts

E.& O.E.

Subject to change

THE PHOTO GALLERY



A General View of Play in the Main Hall



The Tensions of Playing Behind Screens



Lunch on the Lawn



Lunch in the Marquee



“Les Girls”: Norma Sacco-Susan Kacev-Ingrid Watkin-Marcelle Norman-Louise Tager



**Some of our Behind-the-Scenes Staff:
Joan Kgomo-Richard Ramokorna- Fina Serame**



In the Winners' Circle: James Grant-Roz Bernstein-Imtiaz Kaprey-Maureen Narunsky



What a good-looking Group: too many to name!

