



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

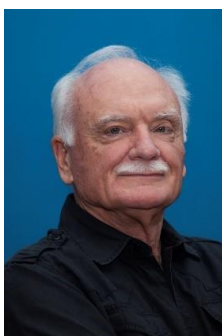
THE BRIDGE

Edition 2
March 2018



Publisher: James Grant
Editor: Stephen Rosenberg
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The season has well and truly begun. Our teams are back over from down under having taken part in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship which all agreed was a wonderful experience. Here in Gauteng we have held our first red point event which took place in Graceland (but unfortunately Elvis had left the building); and SAWBA has ended. But things are heating up, our National Congress is just around the corner and this year will be held in Johannesburg. The Capetonians will tell you they live in the most beautiful city in the world, but we Gautengers boast that here in Johannesburg we enjoy the best climate in the country. And we have something else that Cape Town has not – water! I am in constant communication with our organizing committee and they assure me that the way things are going we will not forget this year’s congress in a hurry. Well it really doesn’t get more exciting than that!

On a more serious note I would like to remind you all that the National Congress is the best opportunity of the year to meet and compete against players from all around South Africa along with several visitors from abroad. But to make this a memorable tournament we need your support so whether you come in planes, cars or trains be sure to come in droves.

James Grant

IN THIS ISSUE

We aim to act as The Bridge between the SABF and its members and also between the members themselves. We will bring you “what’s happenings” from round the country, reports and results from major events, bridge stories from contributors in all our major centres, and, as Kalula would put it, “some of the boring bits” like little bits of law.

This issue, we are privileged to be able to feature articles from Peter Bircher of Margate, Tim Cope and Neil Hayward of Cape Town, Sid Ismail, Chris Bosenberg and Jeff Sapire of Gauteng, as well as a report on SAWBA by Shirley Kaminer and a “happening” by Heidi Atkinson in the Southern Cape.

We even have a contribution from none other than the great Zia Mahmood, *pictured here left*, entitled



THE FOUR FS OF BRIDGE

which formed part of a pep-talk to young players:

- F1. FUN** – First of all, have fun, it’s the most important thing in bridge!
- F2. FOCUS** – Bridge is about being able to keep a constant focus during play; if declarer takes a long think during play, it means he has a problem. Don’t switch off. Use the break to figure out what his problem is.
- F3. FORGET** – Forgetting a bad bid, play or board is the biggest challenge in bridge; the world’s best players all struggle not to let this affect the next board.
- F4. @#%!** – If you do all the above, and it’s still not working, walk out the door, take in the beautiful day and scream @#%! as loudly as you can!



THE WALL AND I

A MESSAGE FROM THE REAL PRESIDENT

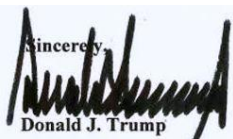
During the election campaign I promised y'all that if I was elected president I would build you a Wall. Today the Wall is up and more good news - we made the Mexicans pay for it! It's true. This Wall is big. It's so big, it's humungous. Y'all will run out of things to post there before you run out of Wall. It's true. You can all check it out for yourselves by going to your nearest friendly website and logging in.

I want personally to congratulate all those brave citizens who have already logged in and started scribbling on the Wall from day 1:

Ros Phillips	GBU	Bettina Fischer	WC
Phillip Menache	GBU	Maureen Narunsky	WC
Hans Lombard	GBU	Karin Newton	WC
William Smith	GBU	Frank Chemaly	KZN
		Peter Bircher	KZN

And a special mention for Hans. That short story you posted, well it was really something special. If you have more like that at home, I'm going to see you get nominated for the Pulitzer prize. It's true. It was great.

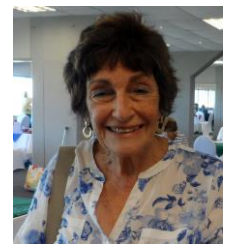
Which reminds me, it's time for my morning tweet, so, gotta go. It's been great chatting to y'all over there in that great country of yours, South Africa. Which I guess is probably south of Africa wherever the hell that is!



THE BBO CLUB TEAMS' CHALLENGE



Did you know that the BBO Club Teams' Challenge is an inter-club event played nationally twice a month on Thursday evenings at 1930? And that it has been going for at least five years in a round robin format? Or



by Roz Bernstein

that we are not strict about your team-size? Do you know any other way to compete regularly against teams from other centres? And that there are four club teams each from GBU and Western Cape, two from the Eastern Cape and one from the Southern Cape? And finally, that Hillbrow (GBU) is leading the current round-robin with PE Contract Bridge Club hot on their heels? If you do know all this, why is your club not competing? For more, go to www.sabf.co.za

This edition of The Bridge, as well as many other SABF projects, are made possible in part by the annual sponsorship from



THE SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

by Heidi Atkinson

The air at Knysna Duplicate Bridge Club and the venue were abuzz with the Wednesday bridge pairs competition and lots of love, heart shaped chocolates, roses, heart shaped home-made short bread biscuits and the walls decorated with paper hearts and heart playing cards.



Heidi Atkinson, Lenore Nott, Margaret Snell, Verna Taylor

Some of the players remembered to dress in red and white and were presented with a Valentine rose, others drew lucky dip prizes, not forgetting all the Valentine hugs ☺ dished out freely.

The winners of this special morning of bridge had a real international flavour:

1. Jenni and Alan Lewis of Johannesburg
2. Verna Taylor and Lene Corvin - both Knysna residents who come every year to escape the European winter
3. Chris Roelans (Belgium tourist) and Koos Bezuidenhout of Wilderness
4. Heidi Atkinson (Knysna) and Gail Bezuidenhout of Wilderness
5. Rita and Peter Jordan – yearly swallows from the UK

For more information on bridge in Knysna and the Southern Cape Bridge Union contact Heidi Atkinson at heidi@hidealoerie.co.za



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

28th February 2018
The Editor, The Bridge

Dear Editor,

My dear friend Agnes has recently moved to Johannesburg and is now regularly playing bridge at one of your clubs. She is over the moon at the



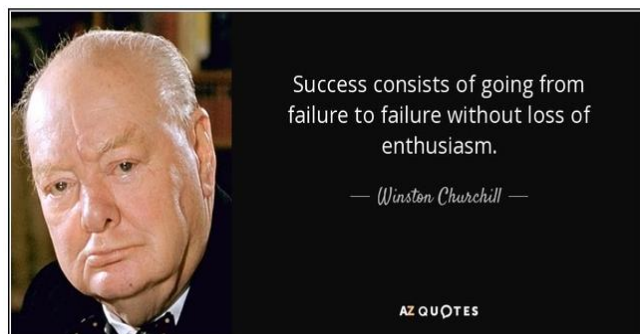
number of bridge-mates she has found there. She says there is one a table and if they cause you any problems you simply call this man who everyone up there refers to as TD, which I am sure is shorthand for Tall Dark and (hopefully) Handsome, like the picture on the left, who soon

sorts them out. Ever since Alfie passed I have been looking for another mate but one that plays bridge is a definite bonus.

I would love to contact one of these guys. Even if we just start off as Pen Pals that might lead to something more over time. Agnes tells me you have also got something called the Wall where you can write messages to each other, but she doesn't say whether that is inside or outside the club? And don't you have notice boards for that kind of thing?

Hoping you can give me more information,
Yours in anticipation,
Name and address withheld on request

Thanks to Hans Lombard of Pretoria, pictured here, for reminding us of Winston Churchill's philosophy, which, if it did not have bridge in mind, should have:



WAY TO GO, PROVINCE!



by Neil Hayward

There is generally a perception that the pool of bridge players everywhere on our planet is diminishing (as is the case with the dams in the Western Cape). While we cannot speak for anywhere else, we can say that, in the Western Cape, it might be an inaccurate assumption.



Since the establishment of the Bridge Centre in Green Point, we have seen how one club in the Southern Suburbs, Keurboom, has, in a sense, been split between two venues. As a result, Monday and Thursday mornings produce a total of roughly 80 tables per week on those two mornings, with a further 25 tables per week when you take the two new mornings, Wednesdays and Fridays; the latter being an opportunity for social players to dip their metaphorical toes into the world of duplicate bridge. This amounts to a healthy increase over the days when Keurboom started as a club, well before the Bridge Centre came on stream. Then there is Trumps, which currently brings in around 45 tables on a Saturday afternoon, even reaching 50 tables on one occasion.

Nevertheless, we should be looking to bring new faces into the world of duplicate bridge. Perhaps the water shortage in the Western Cape offers us an analogy. If one collects water at a natural spring in Cape Town, you will find some people being helpful, ensuring those around them get a supply of the precious resource. Others are quite the opposite, looking only after their own interests, unconcerned about their temporary neighbours. The latter group might even produce an echo in our minds when we think on a larger scale about our wonderful country.

Be that as it may, bridge players should sense they are part of a family, keeping everybody in the game through camaraderie and fair play. If one wants partners and opponents, which you obviously do, alienating people is not the answer. It should be our challenge to make social players feel they can enter the world of duplicate bridge without apprehension. And this applies anywhere where there are duplicate clubs. If we are honest, there's work to be done in this area. Let's make it our mission. So that everybody can go to the spring without any concern.

Steve Bunker, the incoming Chairman of Western Province, mentioned these points:

- WC Pairs Championship 2018 – congratulations to the winners Glen Holman & Brian Pincus whose first round score of 66.34% eventually proved unassailable.
- Tim Cope retires after 21 years of dedicated service to bridge at club, regional and national level. He is succeeded by Steve Bunker as Chairman of the Western Cape Bridge Union who says, "Despite having the smaller feet, I will do my best to fill Tim's shoes!" (see Chairman's report for highlights - link <http://www.wcbridge.co.za/WCBU/Chairman%202017.pdf>)
- SAWBA – play well (especially the Cape Town ladies) but above all have fun and enjoy the game. There are 68 pairs and 19 teams entered, to play at the Bridge Centre in Green Point.
- Although the STOP card has been abandoned, players are still required to pause in the direct seat after a skip bid so as to avoid making unauthorised information available to their partners - i.e. no quick passing even if you have nothing to think about (see <http://cdn.acbl.org/nabc/2017/02/bulletins/db6.pdf> for further info).

IT REALLY HAPPENED IN MARGATE!

Bridge involves statistics we are told. What exactly does this mean? On Friday, 16th February this hand cropped up. Several East/West pairs managed to bid to the right contract – **4 spades**.



by Peter Bircher

♠ 754 ♥ J1098 ♦ AJ64 ♣ J3		Dir: E Vul: N-S																														
♠ KQ1083 ♥ AKQ73 ♦ 82 ♣ 8	♠ A62 ♥ 65 ♦ 75 ♣ KQ9754																															
7 14 10	♠ J9 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ1093 ♣ A1062	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	3	-	3	4	1	W	3	-	3	4	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	-	2	-	-	-																											
S	-	2	-	-	-																											
E	3	-	3	4	1																											
W	3	-	3	4	1																											

However, no one managed to make it. At our table declarer drew trumps and banked everything on a 3-3 heart break. Not the best odds.

When dummy appears you ask yourself what are your chances of making it?

Counting losers, you have three definite; two diamonds and a club and the potential to lose one or two hearts. The opponents start by cashing A-Q of diamonds and switching to a heart, which you win. The first chance is to try a club towards dummy. There is a 50%

chance of the ace been well-placed. If North has it, and takes it, your potential heart losers are taken care of. Alternatively, if North fails to jump up with the ace you have no club loser. Unfortunately, South takes your queen with the ace and continues hearts, North following suit. If hearts break 3-3 you are home without a sweat. However, the most common break, missing 6 cards, is 4-2 which will occur about 48% of the time while the 3-3 break will only occur about 36% of the time. So, what are your odds of finding hearts either 3-3 **or** 4-2? Quite good actually – add 48% to 36% and you get to 84%. With odds like that at the casino you would be doing very nicely!

OK, having concluded that, if hearts do break 4-2, as one should expect, you have to decide what, if anything, can be done about it. Turn your attention to trumps. How might they break? When missing 5 cards, a 3-2 break is most likely, in fact a whopping 68 % of the time. In this deal you really must bank on a “normal” trump break and “go with the odds”.

If you are the type of player who draws trumps first and only then stops to think about the rest of the hand, you are already down finding yourself with a heart loser at the end.

Having concluded that you may need to ruff a heart in dummy, you now have to decide with which trump?

If you could see the position of the trumps, you would draw two rounds of trumps with the K-Q. As the jack comes down in 2, you can simply ruff a heart with the ace, without the risk of an over-ruff. You ruff your way back to hand with a club, draw the last trump with the 10 and claim as North’s 4 hearts are effectively neutralized with the help of the ruff.

However, the odds of catching the ♠J in two rounds aren’t so good, so don’t go there! If the jack had failed to appear in two rounds, you could not afford to ruff a heart with the ace, as the jack would then be the setting trick.

Without a peak at the cards, you adopt a slightly different approach. You draw two rounds of trumps with the A-K, leaving the one trump outstanding. With some concern you ruff a heart with the 6, relieved as South discards, **unable to over-ruff**. If it turns out that hearts were 3-3 all along, South would have followed suit and you would still have made 10 tricks and the ruff would not have been necessary, but neither would it have cost you the contract.

You ruff your way back to hand with a club, draw the outstanding trump and claim. Note: This time it works out but, and this is important, you have lost nothing by adopting this approach.

It’s all in the odds - the higher probability of hearts breaking 4-2 as opposed to 3-3 and then needing a bit of luck - that the holder with 4 hearts also has the outstanding trump and is unable to over-ruff. Tops, in this game require a modicum of skill, using a knowledge of simple stats, plus more than a little bit of luck!

S♥A♣W♦B♠A

by Shirley Kaminer

The 46th South African Women's Bridge Association hosted its annual congress in Cape Town from 1st – 9th March at the Bridge Centre in Green Point. Jan van Dijken was the Chief Tournament Director, assisted by Neil Hayward. Andre Truter was the scorer for the Pairs event. Kitty Cruise, Ann Sturrock, Michele Alexander, Shirley Phillips and committee were the organisers of the event.

The Inter-Provincials were held on the first two days with Northern Gauteng (D Pieters, M Pistorius, N Vorster, S Weide) winning the A Section, and Western Cape (T Hendler, C Posniak, L Marks, B Rodman, L Fintz, L Harris) taking 2nd place. The Western Cape won the B Section (M Cohn, L Watkin, S Botha, E Zimet), with Northern Gauteng (K Fourie, A Job, K Light, T van Broembsen) in 2nd place; while the Bunny Pritchard Bowl was also won by the Western Cape (H Margolius, M Dick, M Joffe, H Sacks), with KZN (J Masojada, J Attwood, A Furniss, H Isaacs) taking 2nd place. At the SAWBA AGM, there was much discussion about whether there should still be an Inter-Provincial event as part of the SAWBA tournament. It was decided that this part of the tournament would remain in the meantime and that the PI requirement for the B Section would be raised from 1200 to 1500 maximum, with no limit per player in the team. It is hoped that this will encourage greater participation in this section.

Sixty-six pairs competed in the two-day Pairs' event over four sessions. It was a very tightly contested tournament, with scores being separated by fractions in most instances, and the final outcome was anything but predictable. Nicola Bateman and Merle Modlin were 1st with 60.30%; Val Bloom and Tas Nestoridis were 2nd with 59.56%; and Shirley Kaminer and Anita Modlinne came 3rd with 58.73%.

The Teams event, contested by 19 teams, was another tight affair with nine-board qualifying rounds, followed by the 24-board rounds in each of the three final sections. The winners in the Championship section were the all JBC team of Val Bloom, Tas Nestoridis, Diana Balkin, Kathy Driver, Nicola Bateman and Merle Modlin, *pictured below with Steve Bunker and Michelle Alexander*, while the team of Maureen Narunsky, Joy Swiel, Marilyn Bradley and Brenda Foster took 2nd place. In the Congress section, the team of Vanessa Armstrong, Tanya Rawson, Mignon Leigh and Ann Miller took 1st place, while the team of Shirley Kaminer, Anita Modlinne, Michele Alexander, Jocelyn Ashberg, Kitty Cruise and Audrey Shearer came 2nd. In the Plate section, the 1st placed team was Rochelle Urisohn, Merle Saxe, Joan Mendelsohn, Jeanette Schewitz, Merle Bracher and Meryl Cohn, while the team of Veronica Barrell, Lynn Brown, Liz Irving, Ann Murray and Moira Hugo took 2nd place. (More detailed results are on the SAWBA website.)



left to right: Tas, Nicola, Val, Steve, Merle, Michelle, Diana, Kathy

The tournament ended on the Friday with a wonderful lunch and the prize-giving ceremony, with Steve Bunker, chairman of the WCBU, entering the ladies' domain to hand out the prizes.

At the AGM, as well as at the prize-giving ceremony, there was a great deal of appreciation expressed to Kitty for her many years of hard work for SAWBA and congratulations for the smooth running of SAWBA in CT this year. There was also sincere appreciation to Ann Sturrock for her technical assistance on an on-going basis. With Kitty Cruise stepping down, Michele Alexander has agreed to take over and will be working towards 2019 SAWBA in Pretoria.

Cape Town bridge players very much appreciated so many other contestants coming to CT to participate, despite the water stressed situation at the southern tip of Africa. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from other parts of SA and to re-connect with everyone. All agreed that it was a most enjoyable tournament!

SID'S QUIZ

David Berkowitz, the bridge-player, *pictured below*, and not the Son-of-Sam of the same name, sat South representing USA in the senior's section of the 2017 World Champs. In this hand, he landed up in 5C and the Italian West led the S4. East took the Ace, returning a spade; David ruffed this.



by Sid Ismail

Q6
K86
KQ95
AT43
N
S
5
AT3
AJ3
KJ986



He then tried the two top trumps, but West had started with Qxx. It looks like he has an inescapable heart loser, right? If David makes the contract, he will wash the board as the other table made 5D. Else he will lose 11 IMPs. There is a way to make it, I assure you!

How would you continue? (Solution at the foot of page 12)

PLAYING WITH THE ODDS

from the Financial Mail of 1st November 1985



by Barbara Smith

In a previous article, I emphasized the importance of spending some time in analysing the possible ways in which a contract can be fulfilled. Often, as declarer, you are confronted with a choice of plays. In making the correct choice, a simple knowledge of basic mathematical odds often gives you that extra edge which the experts always seem to display. This does not mean that you have to burden yourself with pages of statistical tables; a few simple, easy-to-remember rules can help to keep you on the right track!

The contract in this hand is 3NT by South; the lead is the HK.

In no-trump contracts, the first rule is to count tricks. In this instance, you have three quick tricks each in spades and diamonds, and one each in clubs and hearts. Where will you find the ninth trick? There are two possibilities:

- if diamonds break, your fourth diamond is your ninth trick;
- or, the KC may be on-side to be finessed, and the QC is the ninth trick.

Which do you try? Well, what are the odds? The finesse is a 50/50 chance, whereas the chance of finding a suit split 3/3 is only 35%. So, the finesse is the better chance.

An unfriendly LHO has removed your only entry to dummy with the heart lead. There is really no point in your holding up the AH for one round, since, if West has the KC, you cannot keep him of-lead if you opt for the finesse.

So, your best chance is to win the AH, and take the club finesse immediately. If that fails, you can still try the diamond break. Occasionally, you will make all the right plays and still get the wrong result, but that's bridge! West could have KC, five hearts and three diamonds, in which case the 35% odds will be successful, and not the 50/50 finesse. That's when your irate partner will complain that "you could have made it if you had"!

But be assured, if you play with the odds, you're going to win more often than you lose.

	53 A63 653 97642	
JT97 KQJ9 72 JT8		62 8763 JT98 K5
	AKQ4 T2 AKQ4 AQ3	

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CASE BOOK

NO. 77 – THE APPOINTMENT

Many of Holmes' cases would take me too long to regale you with, dear reader. Some however the great detective managed to solve whilst sitting in his armchair and never leaving the warmth of 221B Baker Street. This was one such matter.

It was a cold autumn morning when Holmes and I breakfasted together on a delightful plate of Mrs Hudson's kedgeree. As we dined, there was a knock at the door and Mrs Hudson showed in a somewhat agitated Inspector Lestrade.



Holmes and Watson at breakfast in 221B Baker Street



Lestrade



by Tim Cope

“Good morning Mr Holmes, Dr Watson”, he stuttered. “I come here for your help on a somewhat intriguing murder that occurred this morning. We know the name of the killer, but not his Christian name”, Lestrade continued. “Please let me have the facts, Lestrade” said Holmes “and let us see if we can solve this matter before we finish dining”. “The name of the victim is a Mr Riddle” said Lestrade. “His secretary, a Miss Casey, said he had an appointment with Mr Kennedy at his offices at 8.50am this morning. Now Mr Riddle

had a back entrance to his office so any visitor who knew of this entrance did not have to go past Miss Casey to get into Mr Riddle's office. At the appointed time, Miss Casey said she heard raised voices in the office, followed by a gunshot. By the time she got to the office she found Mr Riddle slumped back in his chair with a bullet through the middle of his forehead. The killer had already fled”

“Why not just go and arrest Mr Kennedy”, I asked. “Unfortunately,” said Lestrade “there are three Kennedy brothers – Edward, John and Robert – all a bit of a bad lot, mixed up in politics and the like. All had dealings with Mr Riddle and we are just not certain which one to arrest. The only thing we have to go on is this bridge hand which was written up in his appointment book. Mr Riddle was known for being a bit cryptic.”

Lestrade showed us a copy of the hand:

	♠ 432 ♥ AKQ ♦ AKQ ♣ J742	
♠ T5 ♥ J432 ♦ J432 ♣ A53		♠ KQ987 ♥ T98 ♦ T98 ♣ K6
	♠ AJ6 ♥ 765 ♦ 765 ♣ QT98	Final contract 3NT Lead T♠

“It looks a fairly simple exercise in standard declarer play” I said, as I puffed out my chest with pride. “Let us assume East plays the QS, and declarer takes this with Ace. Now when he plays a club, West can win the first club and play a second spade. Now East can clear the spades and declarer cannot make the contract without letting East in with a club to beat the contract. A decent declarer will however duck the QS when it is played and only win the second spade. Now when West wins their club trick they will not have another spade, so declarer will have time to set up the club tricks to secure their contract”. I felt pleased with myself until I hear Holmes say, “Not so elementary, my dear Watson”. Perhaps dear reader you can see what Holmes had seen and perhaps even identify the murderer before you read on.

 “Whilst you see this hand as a declarer play problem”, mused Holmes “I see it as a simple defensive problem. Provided East does not make the mistake and play the

QS at trick one, but merely encourages the suit by playing the 9S, there is no way declarer can succeed. Declarer must win the TS lead, and now when West gains the lead with his AC, he has a second spade to clear the suit, and East has an entry with the KC to ensure declarer's demise”

But why does that tell us who the murderer was?” I asked. “If you look at this as a bridge problem, and you are looking for the correct play, which four cards should make up the first trick?” quipped Holmes.

“The ten, the two, the nine and the Jack” I replied. “Ten to nine, Jack” you mean said Holmes. “Mr Riddle had indicated that it would be Jack Kennedy who came to see him at 8 50am (or ten to nine if you prefer). I believe Jack is the colloquial form for John. So please Lestrade. Will you go and make the arrest and leave us in peace to finish our breakfast”.

And so closed another case in the memoirs of Sherlock Holmes.

John Watson M.D., Major, Indian Army ret.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

A Series of Instructive Bridge Articles

NO. 8 – “BID ONE MORE”

I was watching a friendly match of world class players on the internet when this interesting hand arose.

Dealer: E Vul.: Both	T63 98 K853 AKQ6	
A AQ5 QT74 JT742		82 KJT76432 J9 3
	KQJ9754 -- A62 985	

At table 1, East opened 4H, over which South bid 4S. West competed with 5H but North pressed on to 5S, which became the final contract. The AH lead was ruffed, and declarer played a trump, ruffed the heart continuation and then ran the spades. There were eleven tricks on top, but West was squeezed in the minors for an overtrick, for +680.



by Jeff Sapire

At table 2, where the Italian World Champions, Lauria and Versace were sitting East/West, the bidding was quite

different.

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
4H	4S	4NT	5S
Pass	Pass	6H	Dbl

All Pass

Opening lead: SK

I'm not quite sure what West's 4NT meant (it certainly wasn't Blackwood; I suspect it was a special convention to show a good hand with heart support). But when 5S came back to West he had no hesitation in bidding again. 6H doubled went two down, with declarer losing three tricks in the minors, for -500. This gave the Italian team a small but well-earned net gain of +180, translating to 5imps.

What was interesting was West's decision not to sell out at the five level. He followed the sound principle of bidding one more in high-level competitive auctions, where there are long suits flying around, and lots of distribution. It won't always work, of course, but it's usually a winning philosophy to 'bid one more' in these situations.

Your president, James Grant, the SABF Committee members and your editor Stephen Rosenberg, all join in wishing

all our Christian members

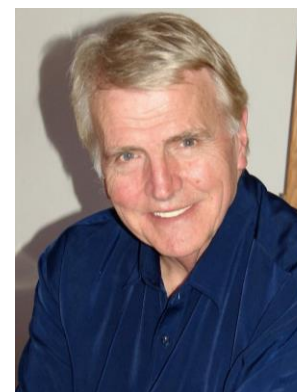


all our Jewish members



ASK CHRIS

Where you get to write, via the editor, to Chris Bosenberg for detailed and considered advice on any aspect of bridge where you need help!



“Dear Chris,

My partner and I often have a problem bidding two-suiters. We do play Ghestem, so bidding a two-suiter over an opponent’s bid is less problematical, but, we would like your take on

1. opening two-suiters
2. responding to partner with a two-suiter.

Also, is Ghestem the best system for over-bidding two-suiters? Should we be using something else? Here are two hands from the J B C event on 22nd January that you could use as examples. In both, we were sitting North-South:

Dlr: East Vul: None	AQT74 --- AQJ762 J5	
J A8432 K4 AKQ86		82 KQJT6 T98 T72
	K9653 975 53 943	

Dlr: South Vul: N/S	53 JT85 T752 J43	
T44 AQ KQ4 KT762		9 74 AJ9632 AQ985
	AKQJ872 KP632 8 ---	

Since I wrote to you last, this hand came up in the pairs at WAFT at The Links on Wednesday 10th February.

Dlr: S Vul: Both	♠ 84 ♥ KJ87642 ♦ 76 ♣ T2	
♠ KQJ52 ♥ A ♦ J ♣ AQ8743		♠ 976 ♥ Q3 ♦ AKQ853 ♣ J9
	♠ AT3 ♥ T95 ♦ T942 ♣ K65	

After a pass by South, what should West open? When we played, she opened 1C; North pre-empted 3H, I went to 4D, South to 4H. And now? Assuming interference in hearts by NS, how do we ever get to the optimum contract of 6S?
Brenda”

Dear Brenda,

When an opponent opens with one of a suit and you hold two five card suits — which suit do you bid first? Ideally you would like to show both suits with one bid; in that way your partner has a clearer picture of your hand at his first turn to bid. On the grounds of frequency, the 2NT overcall (showing a balanced 20-22) and the immediate cue-bid in opponent’s suit (showing a game-forcing hand)

should be utilized for ‘two suited’ duty. The hand types they currently show can easily be placed within the ‘take-out double’ structure. There is little to choose between the two methods Ghestem and Michaels cue bids. Ghestem has the advantage that the two suits are immediately known, but the disadvantage is that the opponents have two suits to use in their bidding; and the 3 Clubs jump overcall loses its weak pre-emptive meaning and also forces the bidding up to the 3-level. Compare this to Michaels, in which a 2-level minor-suit cue-bid lets the over-caller compete at the 2-level. If you choose the play Ghestem you must make a point of remembering that 3 Clubs shows 2 suits and is not a preempt in Clubs. In my view players who get this wrong or cannot remember should be prohibited from playing the system for a long period and have their names recorded. Continued offences should bar them from playing Ghestem as the disruption to the opponent is such that it spoils the fun of the game. (Heidi, Sid, Jan – what do you think? Ed.)

For example, you hold K864-KQ5-9-AQ532, and partner opens 1 Spade and RHO bids 3C There is no alert and on enquiry the LHO thinks it is a pre-empt. Your bidding response and strength of hand is very much determined by what the bid means. Most players play that the two-suited hand strength is variable with the lower range-limit determined by the vulnerability and hand shape. Others arrange to play the bid with either strong or weak hands and overcall with a single suit with intermediate hands. The thinking is that when partner chooses a major, you won't know if a game is in the picture. For that reason, many players choose to define their two-suited overcalls as "weak/pre-emptive or very strong, but not in-between." There are pros and cons to this philosophy; suffice to say that you should discuss with your partner whether he adheres to this practice. My view is that "no range" is the easiest and is generally the preference of the skilled professionals. Regardless of strength it is important to have the points predominately in the suits bid.

e.g. 1. AQJ64-KQ853-72-6
or 2. QJ642-Q8753-K2-A

Hand 1 is an excellent two-suited overcalling hand. whereas the second is poor for a two-suited overcall. Too much outside defensive strength with weak long suits. Overcall 1S initially, intending to introduce hearts next if appropriate. It is very important that both systems must only be bid with 5-5 or better hands, never with 6-4 or 5-4, and this rule is NEVER bent! Using 5-4 suit lengths over opponents No Trump is however fine as partner will not be encouraged to bid too high and will alert you bid as such.

It is recommended that you also add **Leaping Michaels** to your arsenal: a 4-level minor suit jump or skip bid in opponents' pre-emptive bid shows a game forcing auction with a two-suited hand. If the jump suit was not bid by an opponent, the jump shows length in the suit bid and the opposite major. If the suit was a cue-bid of opponents' minor, the jump shows both majors. e.g. after opponent's 2S, 4 Clubs by us shows Clubs and Hearts (the other major).

Here are some possible answers to the three hands you sent me:

Hand 1

Dlr: East Vul: None	AQT74 --- AQJ762 J5	
J A8432 K4 AKQ86		82 KQJT6 T98 T72
	K9653 975 53 943	

Likely bidding

North	East	South	West
	Pass	Pass	1H
2H – Michaels	4H	4S	5C
3C – Ghestem			
5D – a strong 6-5	Pass	5S	All Pass

Hand 2

Dlr: South Vul: N/S	53 JT85 T752 J43	
T64 AQ KQ4 KT762		9 74 AJ9632 AQ985
	AKQJ872 K9632 8 ---	

North	East	South	West
		1S	Pass
Pass	2NT - Ghestem	4H	5C
5H	Pass	Pass	??

If partner has a shortage in Spade we would like to bid 6 but if partner has 2 Spades we will be down! Tragically we would have to guess. Some would bid 6 tactically anyway as it is likely that the opponents will save in 6H regardless of whether you can make your contract.

Hand 3

Dlr: S Vul: Both	♠ 84 ♥ KJ87642 ♦ 76 ♣ T2	
♠ KQJ52 ♥ A ♦ J ♣ AQ8743		♠ 976 ♥ Q3 ♦ AKQ853 ♣ J9
	♠ AT3 ♥ T95 ♦ T942 ♣ K65	

North	East	South	West
		Pass	1C
3H	4D	4H	4S
Pass	5D	Pass	5S
Pass	?		

East again is guessing and may be tempted to bid 6S. Note if you could see partner's hand you would probably stop in 5S as you need North's distribution to be 7222. Any hand with the Spades or Clubs breaking 4-1 will probably defeat the contract. North could also hold the King of clubs So if you stopped in 5S 6 do not feel bad if 6 makes as you would have needed some luck and you should simply acknowledge that pre-empts have the effect of making bidding and judgement more difficult.

Best wishes, and good luck with your two-suiters,

Chris Rosenberg

MY FAVOURITE BRIDGE STORIES

A short while back, a number of well-known North American bridge-players were asked for their favourite, preferably amusing bridge stories. This one is by Nick Krnievic.



Mark Molson



Bob Baran

“About 25 years ago, what was then Canada's most effective partnership, Mark Molson (“Moon”) and Boris Baran (“Bo”), bid efficiently to a small slam in clubs over which their opponents took a save in their 13 card-fit. When Bo made a forcing pass, implying 1st round control in the opponents' suit, Moon bid the cold 7 clubs, only to see the opponents save at the seven level. At this point the rot set in. Holding a void in the opponents’ suit, Moon not unreasonably decided that Bo’s forcing pass was based on the ace of that suit, so he shot out 7 no-trump which was smartly doubled.

Eager to grab their seven cashing tricks, the opponents serendipitously led out of turn, which momentarily transformed +2000 into -2930 since declarer had 13 tricks in the side-suits. Unfortunately for Canada's finest, before Moon could bar the led suit, Bo tabled his hand as the dummy, thereby ratifying the opening lead. The title of the next day's bulletin was “Molson Brews While Baran Stews”.....”

SID'S QUIZ: THE SOLUTION

Trick 1 – SA by East
Trick 3 – Top trump

Trick 2 – Spade ruff by declarer
Trick 4 – Another top trump
East shows out

Trick 5 – Cash AH (imperative)

Trick 6 – Cash KH (imperative)

Trick 7 - Now play diamonds. West can ruff if he wishes but will then have to play a spade conceding a ruff/sluff if he does. In the event West did not ruff, but Berkowitz simply threw him in with a trump. (Fortuitously, West was dealt only 2 hearts)

