



CONGRESS 2018 PLAY of the DAY

And here's another one from Leif Stabell from the first qualifying session.

The dealer is East; North-South vulnerable.

♠ K J 4		♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ K 5 2		♥ 10 3
♦ 7 6 2		♦ J 4
♣ 8 6 5 2		♣ A K 7

W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♦
2♠	3♦	3♥*	pass
4♠	pass	pass	pass

This is how the bidding went at our table, and we clearly bid too much here. Four spades has no chance, but how can you minimise the damage and save a few points when South starts with the three top honours in diamonds?

Since North bid 3 diamonds without any honours in the suit, the Ace of hearts is probably offside. Could it be possible to set up the fourth club for a heart discard without letting South in to play a heart?

It is, but not if you ruff the third diamond with the 3 of spades! Ruff with the 5, play the 8 of spades to the Jack and a club from dummy. When North plays low, win the Ace, play the 10 of spades to the King (both opponents following) and another club from dummy. If North goes up with the Queen (which is the indicated play if South dropped the Jack of clubs under the Ace), you must duck, win the club continuation, and play the carefully preserved 3 of spades to the 4 and discard a heart loser on the fourth club. The full deal:

Board 18 N/S Vul - Dealer East

	♠ 9 7	
	♥ A J 9 8 7	
	♦ 10 8 3	
	♣ Q 9 3	
♠ K J 4		♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ K 5 2		♥ 10 3
♦ 7 6 2		♦ J 4
♣ 8 6 5 2		♣ A K 7
	♠ 6 2	
	♥ Q 6 4	
	♦ A K Q 9 5	
	♣ J 10 4	

One down and minus 50 gave 37% score. Not great, but better than the 8% score you would have gotten for two down.

THE SIDE BAR

As we come to the end of a gruelling four days, having done that for which we all gathered, namely played lots of bridge, we have only a few more hours before we know who has finally triumphed. Although, in my view, you have all triumphed! Just lasting the pace and intensity (and some of you are not as young as you once were) is a triumph in itself.

Playing in this Pairs' event at Congress 2018 has been a pleasure!

For me, on the outside while still being on the inside, it has been the best organised and run Congress of the six or so in which I have participated as a TD and editor of your daily Bulletin. The caddies and other support staff have all been tremendous; without them, no Congress can run smoothly.

And sure, there have been a few hiccoughs. Like when the power blew in the Marquee and we couldn't get tea. But in Johannesburg, you're lucky sometimes to have power at all.

And yes again, some of our more volatile players occasionally let their underlying personalities get the better of them. But with those soon forgotten, the play was, in the main, as it should be – courteous and cut-throat at one and the same time. Good!

So, from me, Stephen Rosenberg, your editor, *au revoir* until next time, with my motto:



MY FAVOURITE BRIDGE STORIES

Some years' ago, a group of American bridge players were asked for their favourite humorous bridge stories. This one is from Yehudit Hassan.



I sometimes play with my mom. She is a nice player, but a little conservative. We were to play in a sectional, and five minutes before the game starts, she asks me how to decide if to bid 7 or just 6. Not to complicate things I told her "Just think about what you know about my hand, what you see in yours and try to count 13 tricks, if you can't we should not be in 7, 6 making will be a good result anyway".

My first hand, being dealer, I look at a pretty dull ♠ xxx, ♥ AKxxx, ♦ Kx, ♣ Qxx and open 1♥. LHO passes, and my mom sinks for at least 2 full minutes coming out with 1♠, RHO passes. I bid 1NT, pass, mom sinks again for another 3 minutes, coming out with 6NT, which becomes the final contract. LHO leads, mom proudly puts down:

AKQx
QJ
AQJx
AKx

Unlike the opponents I managed not to comment till the end of the game (very rare for me), thinking that she just miscounted. After the game I asked, "Remember that 6NT first hand, how many points you held?"

"Yes, 26, it was a VERY nice hand" said mom. "So, if you hold 26 and I opened, we have 38. Why didn't you bid 7NT?" "Because you said 6 was always a good result". That was the only time I scored a O, on 6NT making 7, and indeed it was my fault.

IT'S ALL A MATTER OF PRIORITIES



It's their much-anticipated wedding night and George and Sandy are just getting down to the business of wedded bliss when his cell-phone rings! George answers and Sandy has to endure a ninety-minute conversation about *bridge*!! [She, of course, doesn't even play the damned game!] In a nutshell, the caller had gone down in a very makeable six spades. When the call finally ends, Sandy, by now in tears, sobs "How can he be so inconsiderate. That was terrible." "You're right, honey. All he had to do was take a finesse against the queen!"

