



South African Bridge Federation

National Congress Teams 2017

Daily Bulletin # 0 Tuesday 16 May



Dear Fellow Teams Players,

Welcome to the 64th South African Bridge Congress, and a very special welcome to all our international players to one of our favorite parts of South Africa. I hope you all have the opportunity of spending some time exploring the beauty of the Cape Peninsula and Winelands. This year we have a large entry of 54 teams, including teams from Sweden, England, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Reunion and Botswana, as well as from all corners of South Africa, and of course, individual players and pairs from the UK, USA, Canada and even further afield!

To my executive and committee many thanks for the long hours planning and organizing this congress. A really big "thank you" goes to Kitty Cruise who took on the demanding job of Tournament Organizer; with her guidance and that of her team of Hilary Nick and Ann Sturrock, we can only expect a superb tournament. Jan van Dijken of Cape Town (Chief T.D.) and Sid Ismail of Benoni are our Tournament Directors; Peter Bircher of Margate is the Scorer, and we also have Stephen Rosenberg from Johannesburg who will be doing the Bulletin and assisting the Tournament Directors. Thank you for all the pre-work that I know you have already done.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I wish you an enjoyable and successful Teams' Competition in lovely Cape Town.

Helen Kruger

President, South African Bridge Federation

In the Directors' Chairs

Jan van Dijken



You all remember Robert Bolt's play "A Man for All Seasons"; well, Jan is a man for all countries, being a Scots-born Dutch South African!

Jan trained originally as a Quantity Surveyor and was involved later in property development for Transnet, including the initial stages of the V & A Waterfront.

He currently works in Cape Town as a free-lance national tourist guide, also organising tours to South Africa for Dutch bridge groups and other tourists.

He started playing bridge way back in his University days, and has been a Tournament Director for the past twelve years.

Sid Ismail



Sid boasts a varied life path – a qualified teacher followed by some 12 years in Data Processing, finally choosing a career in financial counselling. Since the early 1970s, bridge has been a steady pursuit. Sid was lucky to be mentored by the likes of Ralph Mizroch,

Gerda Gosler and Misha Martinovic.

He has played in many red point events all over the country reached Grandmaster status six years ago. He runs the Benoni Bridge Club and has now chosen to use his time mainly in Directing. He is a qualified National TD with the SABF and has already passed the tough European Bridge Union's TD course held in Prague in February 2016.

Please leave the bidding cards exposed until the opening lead has been played face-down!

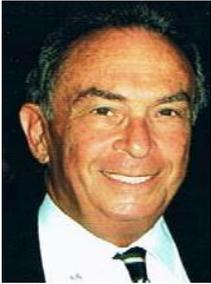
Who's Who

Kitty Cruise



Originally from Durban, Kitty has been in Cape Town for so many years that she is now accepted as a *ware kapenaar!* A mother of two (and she's taught her son to play bridge!) and a grand-mother four times over (not that you'd believe it to look at her), Kitty has continued and even intensified her decades-long involvement in bridge. She was taught the game as a ten-year old by her parents; back in 1972, she founded the Durbanville Bridge Club, and to-day still finds time, in between staying at her holiday home in Hermanus and travelling North for her beloved game-viewing, to be the National President of SAWBA, the VP of the WCBU, run the Keurboom Bridge Club and take charge of the Western Cape's schools' bridge teaching programme. Wow!

Stephen Rosenberg



Stephen Rosenberg, B.A. [Wits] M.A. [London], was born in Pretoria, *maar het baaie jonk ontsnap* to Johannesburg. He is an inveterate traveller; reader; movie and theatre goer; and a lover of fine art, food and wine; he is a keen sports' follower and committed Chelsea AFC fan. In the bridge world, he's a GBU Committee member, Tournament Director at the JBC, Hillbrow and Links Bridge Clubs and edits and produces the GBU's Bridge Monthly. He does not often wear a collar and tie! When not involved in Bridge, he is a valuer of fine art and collectables for insurance brokers and insurers alike.

Let's Talk Alerting



I'm going to "Alert" this, so that when my partner explains it, I can see if I got it right.

What must be alerted?

Any seemingly natural bid that has an unexpected meaning must be alerted! This includes certain doubles.

And if it's above 3NT?

The same applies. For example, a bid of 4♥ over partner's 1♠ needs to be alerted [or announced] as a splinter bid, if that's what it is. But don't ask if it's not alerted and you're not in the bidding; wait for the clarification period.

Do Doubles and Re-doubles have to be alerted?

Sure they do, but only if they have an unexpected meaning!

And if we play Precision?

This should be *pre-alerted*, especially in a pairs' event where you are playing only 2 or 3 boards; however, the *normal alerts* still apply. For example, not everyone knows that a Precision 1♣ could have no clubs and just shows points!

What about a short club or diamond opening?

Remember that, in this modern day and age, a three-card suit is considered a natural suit, so if you open a minor with three or more cards, it does not need to be alerted; less than three can be announced as "may be as short as two or one (as the case may be)".

Did you know that there are 635 013 559 600 total possible bridge hands?

The Legal Times



HESITATIONS

We are often asked: "Measured in seconds, what period is considered to be a hesitation:

- in bidding?
- by declarer after the first trick has been played?
- by defender after the first trick has been played?"

Dealer North. E/W Vul.			
♠ K J 7			
♥ K 10 7 4 2			
♦ 10 7 4			
♣ A 8			
♠ A 5		♠ Q 10 8 6	
		4 3 2	
♥ J 8	W N	♥ Q	
♦ A 5	E S	♦ 9 8 6 3	
♣ K Q 10 6 5 4 2		♣ J	
♠ 9			
♥ A 9 6 5 3			
♦ K Q J 2			
♣ 9 7 3			
-			
West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♠	4♥
Pass ¹	Pass	4♠	5♥
All Pass			
¹ After accepted hesitation			

Forget hesitation! The correct thinking and terminology is "a break in tempo" when a player's actions take noticeably longer, or shorter, than is normal for that player. It is difficult to judge what is usual for any particular player, so, in practice, players, directors and appeal committees tend to consider it a break in tempo when a player takes noticeably longer, or noticeably shorter than is the norm for the average player. We can't really quantify this, as it is a subjective decision. Sure, if any player pauses during bidding for about eight seconds or more (except after a STOP card when he is required to do so) that would normally be considered a break in tempo with possible consequent sanctions against the "tempo-breaker". In play on the other hand, players very rarely take as long as they do during bidding, so a few seconds delay is usually considered a break in tempo which can be construed as passing unauthorised information, with all its attendant possible penalties!

For example, in this hand from a reasonably high-level pairs' event, the result was 5♥ making 10 tricks for a bottom! Other tables had played and made 4♥; if EW played 4♠, they went off 3 for a score of -300. As the hesitation had been accepted by both pairs, NS reserved their rights and called the Tournament Director after the hand had been played. [Is this ok? Of course it is!] He promptly disallowed the 4♠ call and adjusted the hand to 4♥ making. The basis of this is that certain calls become illegal after partner has given unauthorised information, in this case a noticeable and agreed hesitation, and where a Pass by South can be seen as a logical alternative to bidding at the five level. Law 92B even allows the aggrieved pair up to 30 minutes after the results are posted to ask for a Director's ruling on the hand. So why call the Director at the time? This is to establish facts, and players who do not do so may have disputes over facts go against them. However, where the facts are not

disputed, there is no need to call the Director during play.

Are all changes in tempo automatically subject to sanctions? Definitely not, and that is why you need to call a Tournament Director to rule on this kind of seeming infraction. But this is a subject for another time.

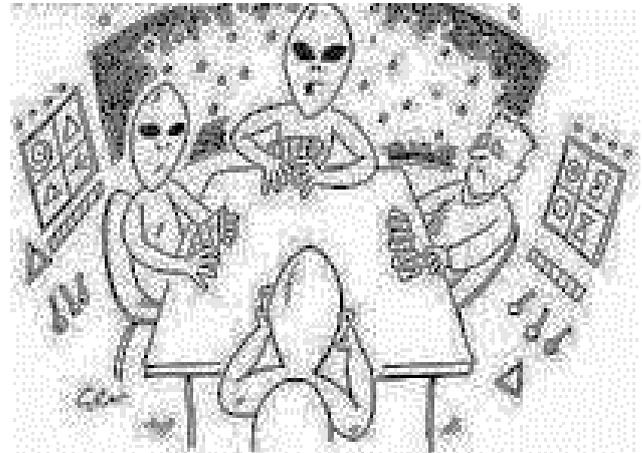
We would prefer it if you kept only one board on the table at any one time!



At all major competitions, from the Olympics through the World Cup to Congress 2017, there are Rules and Regulations pertaining to both the Competition itself and to the venue that need to be followed. Here are a few simple “Nuts and Bolts” rules for Congress 2017 at the Kelvin Grove.

1. We are still using the 2007 Laws.
2. Please wear your SABF name-badges at all times.
3. Ensure that you and the other half of your team are sitting in opposing directions.
4. *Switch off* all mobile ‘phones and pagers; penalties will be incurred if your ‘phone rings or even *beeps!*
5. Take only one board at a time from the relay tables.
6. You’ll get a *half-time* warning, a 15 minute warning (two boards to go) and *five minutes* from time we will remove all un-played boards.
7. If you are struggling to find a particular board, especially towards the end of the round, call a Tournament Director so that you are not prejudiced by running out of time.
8. There are **NO** tea-breaks during the session. Tea and coffee will be available between 0830 and 1000, and from the end of the morning session until 1500; you will need to splash out R 100 for a book of ten tea-coffee vouchers.
9. For the sake of the environment, use water sparingly in your visits to the toilets; also, drink your whiskey neat!
10. Keep the **BRIDGE** notice visible on your dashboards to facilitate entry to the Club grounds.
11. Park *only* on the rugby field, and nowhere else!
12. Lunch is available in the Barn, the Pavilion and the Terrace restaurants, or in nearby eateries like Michael’s in Campground Road and Col’ Cacchio on Keurboom Road. On Sundays, only the Pavilion Restaurant will be open at the Kelvin Grove.
13. Remember, this is a private club; respect its rules!
14. Have fun, and MAYFGR!

A Special Welcome to those from Gauteng!



Of course we’re not going to experiment on you! We’re here to play bridge!!

Oops! The KZN Team’s also here!



Bridge is a real blessing in old age. It also helps to get you there more quickly!