



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

THE BRIDGE

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James Grant

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wrote in the last bulletin that we would endeavour to put the sparkle back into our national congress and I think it fair to say that we succeeded. In fact, someone told me that this was one of the best run congresses he had ever attended – but hey! That might have been me, so that comment might be a bit biased. But when all is said and

done, it was an extremely good congress. This was as a result of a number of factors, some of them planned and some fortuitous. First of all there was the Congress committee who carried out an excellent job in planning the logistics of this tournament, and while thanking them I would also like to thank their extended team from the flower arrangers all the way up to the tournament directors who helped make this congress so friendly and professional. Thanks also go to Malcolm Siegel and Steve Bunker for ensuring that matches were successfully transmitted on BBO so that those of us not present at congress could follow events from the comfort of their homes.

We had the good fortune to have Waleed El Menyawi as our chief tournament director who apart from being a professional WBF director turned out to be a whizz kid (though modestly he claims his young daughter is far more IT literate than he) when it came to manipulating his scoring programme. There was nothing we threw at Waleed, additions, cancellations, substitutions that he couldn't handle in minutes flat. Thanks to him we also ran our first ever real barometer in the Pairs event where everyone played the same hands in the same round – this resulted in Richard and Simon in the back room having to deal in excess of 3000 additional boards! And finally we were lucky with our timing, a week later and congress would have been cancelled. But speaking personally the real attraction of congress for me is the opportunity it affords to play against top bridge players from overseas. Of course we have excellent players here but playing against those from distant shores brings with it a breath of fresh air. So I will continue with a hand Larry and I played against the Stabell brothers, Leif-Erik and Tolle. The hands have been rotated for your convenience.

EW vulnerable; E dealer

WEST James	NORTH Tolle	EAST Larry	SOUTH Leif-Erik
		1♥	P
3♥	X	P	5♣
P	P	P	

3H was weak, less than 6 points and at least 4 hearts

The South hand looked like this:

♠ T93
♥ K74
♦ K93
♣ KT86

The lead was the ♥8 and dummy goes down:

♠ AQ42
♥ 2
♦ AJ84
♣ AQ52

The lead was won with the ace and East returned the 5, covered by the 7 and 9 of hearts and ruffed in dummy. Leif now played 3 rounds of trumps ending in his hand, West discarding a small heart. On the ♥K West followed with the jack, dummy discarded a diamond and East followed low. Now the ♠T was covered by the jack, queen and won by East with the king. East exited with the ♠8 which Leif won in hand with the 9. If spades break 3-3 the hand is now over, but when Leif played a small spade to the ace East discarded the ♥T. What now? Leif thought for a couple of seconds, certainly less time than I often take to realize it's my turn to play, then proceeded to make the hand. For Leif the hand was an open book. East was known to have started with

♠ K82
♥ AQT53
♦ ???
♣ J94

For his opening bid he was marked with at least 12 points, and therefore must hold the ♦Q. If he also held the ♦T there was no hope, so Leif played the ♦J from dummy winning in hand when East covered this with the queen, then finessed West for the ♦T making the contract. An intra-finesse is a rare play but its successful execution is beautiful to behold.

And now we go into



In the confines of South African bridge we face two challenges. The first of these is how best do we go about supporting those clubs that face almost certain bankruptcy should we have an extended shutdown? The second is how do we ensure that our players get their daily/weekly fix of bridge with friends now that all our clubs are closed?

The answer to these challenges is simple – we set up club games on BBO at advertised times and restrict access to South African players only whilst charging them a nominal entry fee.

We have talented people working on this as I write, and it is very possible that by the time you read this bulletin we will have a workable solution. Andrew Cruise and Malcolm Siegel are busy on this down in Cape Town whilst Sid Ismail has already got something in place for his club members and Rob Stephens is looking to set up tournaments for the Links-based clubs. Once they are successful we will try and extend this concept throughout the country.

The answer may be simple, but the solution is not as there are a number of obstacles in our way before everything is running smoothly. First of all there is the fact that BBO are overextended with the added load of players now using their facilities and are extremely reluctant to give permission for more tournaments to be played. Next we need TDs to set up these tournaments and monitor them whilst they are in progress. When I say TDs I don't necessarily refer to those who know the laws, but rather those who are IT literate and can set up and run tournaments on the web – we have a shortage of people with this talent. And of course we need to know who's entering which is why it is very important that you now enter your BBO name on our database as without this your entry will not be accepted. I trust as many of you as possible will give your support to this initiative.

For some of us our weekly bridge game was the only social outing we had; the only opportunity we had to talk and laugh with others. Now that we are in lockdown mode I implore you all to reach out through social media be it Facebook, Skype, WhatsApp or just a simple phone call to all those members of your local clubs who fall into the above category just so that they know that they are loved and not on their own.

On a lighter note I believe that the German government has ordered their citizens to stock up on sausages and cheese in preparation for the *wurst kase* scenario!

James Grant

THE STRANGE WORLD OF BRIDGE



by *Justin Corfield*
Youth International
and Irish Grand
Master



Harold Sterling Vanderbilt, railroad magnate, three times the skipper of a winning yacht in the Americas cup, and great-grandson of the noted financier Commodore Vanderbilt, invented Contract Bridge along with three others aboard the steamship *Finland* in 1925, somewhere between Los Angeles and Havana, quite possibly whilst passing through the Panama Canal. Contract Bridge was Vanderbilt's improvement on the earlier game of Auction Bridge, which had been around for some 75 years previously, itself a development of the game of Whist, which had been around for longer still. Playing cards, of one form or another, have been with us for well over a thousand years.

Like Whist, the game of Bridge revolves around the taking of "tricks". One player leads a card (places it face up on the table), and then each of the others must play a card of the same suit, going clockwise around the table until all four players have played. Whoever played the highest card of the suit that was led wins that trick and leads to the next one.

Put like that, the game might seem rather dull, but let me assure you that it is not. Most competitive bridge is played as duplicate bridge. To win at this form of bridge requires that you do better than other people who have the same cards as you do. Chess is the only game that can possibly compete with bridge on an intellectual level, and I wouldn't like to bet on which is the harder game to master, in the unlikely event that anybody truly masters either. Samuel Reshevsky, the US chess champion, decided to become an expert at Bridge too, but despite devoting all of his time to it, he ended up finding the game too difficult. Other famous Chess players have been keen Bridge players as well, including the legendary players José Raúl Capablanca and Emanuel Lasker.

Bridge contains many unfathomable subtleties and has a habit of very quickly getting into the blood of those that play it, to the extent that they, or should I say we, can think about little else. Amanullah II, the Emir of Afghanistan, 1919-29, was so obsessed with the game that he had to abdicate his reign. The depiction of the human form was considered a sacrilege by orthodox Muslims, and the Queens on playing cards wear no veils. It was down to those four Queens that Amanullah II was ousted from his rule.

He wasn't the only famous or influential person to fall under the spell of bridge. President Eisenhower was a very keen player, and regularly held games in the White House. He used bridge for relaxation and was playing a famous game while he waited to hear news of the Allied landing in Casablanca. Eisenhower was a strong player, and a hand he played was reported by Oswald Jacoby, a legend of the game, in the New York Times.

Show business personalities are not immune to the allure of the devil's picture book either. The Marx brothers were fanatically keen on the game. Omar Sharif has been an ambassador for bridge for years, and was an exceptionally talented player, having represented his native Egypt internationally. Rumour has it that he first learned to play on the set of Lawrence of Arabia, whilst waiting for the many extras to be kitted out.

James Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, was another to succumb to the game of bridge, and it features in many of his novels. In the famous scene where Goldfinger plans to slice Bond in half with a laser, Bond stops him by telling him that he knows about "Operation Grand Slam". The comedian George Burns played bridge regularly right up to the time of his death, aged 100.

But in bridge, age matters not. Neither does race, religion, gender, nationality, wealth or anything else. I have seen many games of bridge played by four people who have nothing in common at all. Sometimes, the players have hilariously opposing views on virtually everything. Picture Amanullah II, Dwight D Eisenhower, Groucho Marx and Ian Fleming playing a few hands together, and you'll see what I mean. Such a pity they didn't? I would have loved to see that particular game unfolding.

Over the last century, Bridge has been the setting for some very strange happenings. Take the unfortunate case of Harry Meacham, of North Carolina. Meacham was having a terrible run of luck in a high stakes bridge game and announced that he would shoot the next person who dealt him poor cards. He promptly dealt himself a bad hand, put a gun to his head, and shot himself dead, to the stunned silence of the other people in the room.

Then there was the even stranger case of John and Myrtle Bennett, of Kansas. Playing a friendly game of bridge against their neighbours, Mr Bennett became the declarer, and to succeed in his contract he had to take ten

tricks, with spades as trumps. When he failed to do so, his wife shot him dead, telling their neighbours that he was a “bum bridge player”. She was later miraculously acquitted in court, the jury deciding that the shooting was accidental, and collected on her husband’s substantial life insurance policy. Perhaps a few jurors were bridge players too and sympathized with her plight.

One of my favourite bridge-related anecdotes concerns the Indian player, Om Parkash Chaudhry. Completely



blind, he used to play by having another person sit next to him, and whisper to him what cards he held. One day Chaudhry was playing in a tournament in India when suddenly there was a power cut and the lights went out. Chaudhry just continued playing, unaware that anything was amiss. When somebody explained that the other players couldn’t play without being able to see their cards, he was surprised, having forgotten that other players actually needed to see! Why do we play bridge? Some of us just love the elegant, abstract nature of the game. Occasionally, just very occasionally, a bridge player gets

the chance to play a really difficult hand, where the contract can only be made by producing a work of art. There are many spectacular coups possible in bridge, both for the side declaring and for the side defending. It is not easy to explain to the non-player what these masterpieces are all about, but it resembles the situation in chess where sometimes a player can seemingly sacrifice most of his pieces, but the result is that the opponent is checkmated. And some just play for sheer enjoyment and the social nature of the game. Bridge is all about partnership and being able to work together with somebody else to achieve some goal. Bridge partnerships are rather like marriages; some are very long-lasting and monogamous, whilst others swing quite cheerfully. It won’t surprise you to learn that I know many bridge players whose bridge partnerships have survived intact for dozens of years, but whose many attempts at marriage have been, shall we say, rather less successful.

Bridge is not a game for the recluse, the isolated genius who emerges after years of study to gain world dominance. You can only win or lose at bridge as one half of a partnership that has won or lost, and so to succeed requires that you think like a partnership. As you might imagine, this involves a lot of psychology, guesswork, trust, intuition. To be successful in bridge, a player has to be able to get the best out of their partner, and this is not always easy. But the psychology of the game adds to its depth and complexity. No amount of knowledge about how to play cards is of any use to somebody who doesn’t understand enough about people. And yes, I know plenty of players who fall into that category too. I am sure that at one time or another you have sat in a car, stuck in the mother of all traffic jams, and wondered what the inventor of the car would make of all this if only he could see it today. When I play in a big bridge tournament, where as far as the eye can see all you have is bridge table after bridge table after bridge table, I wonder what Harold Vanderbilt would make of it all if only he could see it. There are well over 30 million bridge players in the US alone, and many, many more worldwide. I don’t think Harold would have believed it.

	NORTH: ‘M’ ♠ T987 ♥ 6543 ♦ --- ♣ 76532	
WEST: MEYER ♠ 65432 ♥ T872 ♦ JT9 ♣ ---		EAST: DRAX ♠ AKQJ ♥ AKQJ ♦ AK ♣ KJ9
	SOUTH: BOND ♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ Q8765432 ♣ AQT84	

I shall leave you with a famous hand. In Ian Fleming’s “Moonraker”, Bond rigs a bridge hand against the villainous Drax. Bond, sitting South, and of course knowing all four hands because he has fixed the deck, bids 7♣. Drax, sitting East, doubles this and Bond redoubles. The stakes, now, are enormous. Despite Bond having virtually no high cards at all, there is no way for the defenders to defeat 7♣, as declarer can trump two diamonds in the north hand, establishing the suit, whilst leading through East’s clubs twice. If instead East had bid 7♥ or 7♠, a diamond lead from South would allow North to score a trump trick, defeating the grand slam. If West had somehow managed to bid 7♥ or 7♠, though, he would have succeeded. Doubtless Drax pointed that out to Meyer after the game.

WALEED EL MENYAWI by Stephen Rosenberg



Waleed el Menyawi

On the 5th and 6th March, the SABF arranged a free seminar to update Tournament Directors and players alike on the Laws and intricacies of our game. Tournament Directors were treated to easy-to-grasp explanations of the major changes that came in early in 2018. It's all about 'restoring equity' although lapses in concentration can still lead to sanctions and penalties! About 12 people attended the programme, expertly presented by Waleed el Menyawi, an international Tournament Director from Egypt, who is on his second bridge-related visit to South Africa. Incidentally, Mr el Menyawi would leave Johannesburg after the seminar for Cape Town where he would go on to officiate as the Chief Tournament Director for the 2020 Congress.

Waleed is a born-and-bred Cairene, who holds a Bachelor of Computer Science Degree. He is the full-time Administration Manager of the Egyptian Bridge Federation, as well as the Chief Tournament Director of both Zone 8 (the Arab Bridge League and Egypt) and Zone 4 (Asia & the Middle East); it is lucky that travel is one of his interests as he has visited over 50 countries, and officiated as the

Chief Tournament Director in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Greece, Syria, the UAE, Cyprus, Lebanon, Kenya, Morocco and of course South Africa. He is a happily married man with a lovely 14-year old daughter, whose ambition it is to become an international Tournament Director, just like Dad!

SID'S QUIZ by Sid Ismail

This hand, and the Quiz that Sid subsequently devised from it, arose during the SABF National Trials 2020.

	NORTH ♠ QT7532 ♥ A ♦ QJ74 ♣ T5	
WEST ♠ AKJ6 ♥ K9 ♦ A9532 ♣ 87		EAST ♠ --- ♥ Q8 ♦ K86 ♣ AKQJ9632
	SOUTH ♠ 984 ♥ JT765432 ♦ T ♣ 4	

All pairs in both sections (Open and Women) got to 6♣ and one pair in the Women's Section even made 13 (Rosslee/Stanton) on the lead of the singleton ♦T.

You can look at all 4 hands – assume best defence – it now becomes a “double-dummy” problem.

QUIZ: *Is there an iron-clad way to make all 13 tricks on the lead of the ♦T?*

Have a look at it yourselves first; then check out Sid's Solution on page 11.

The author, *Sid Ismail* of Benoni, a Grandmaster in his own right, is renowned of the game! *Ed.*



Sid Ismail

as a National Tournament Director, a “bridge-o-phile” and deviser of Bridge puzzles! He is also well known to me as a keen student and very stimulating teacher



SUE AND

SALLY'S

BEDTIME STORY

Sue explained to Sally how she planned to improve her game: “Every night when I go to bed I think about the mistakes I made that day at the bridge table.” “Gee Sue” said Sally, “how do you get any sleep?”

THE KIBBITZER by Anonymous

A man was kibbitzing in a big tournament. Suddenly a player at another table got sick and had to leave. No substitute was available and the kibbitzer was asked if he could play. He sat as South and told his partner, that he didn't know anything about bidding, but his partner (a top player) said "Just describe your hand. I'll take it from there." The bidding went this way:



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
P	1NT	P	2♥
P	2NT	P	3♠
P	3NT	P	7♦

and the hand looked like the diagram on the right:

After getting the lead of the ♣9, declarer went up with the Ace in dummy. He next played the ♦J, covered by the King and taken with the Ace. Trumps were then drawn. A small heart to the Ace, and declarer ran his club tricks, discarding his heart and spade losers, making seven, despite the spade loser. West called the Tournament Director to the table, questioning the bidding; he insisted that without the 3♠ bid from South, he would have led away from his ♠K and set the contract one trick! The Tournament Director asked South to explain his bidding. "Easy" the kibbitzer replied.. "My partner told me to describe my hand, so I did – one club, two hearts, three spades and seven diamonds. So what's all the fuss about?"!!!

Dlr. S Vul. EW	♠ J ♥ A432 ♦ J ♣ AKQ5432	
♠ KT642 ♥ K8765 ♦ 42 ♣ 9		♠ AQ53 ♥ JT ♦ K63 ♣ 8765
	♠ T87 ♥ Q9 ♦ AQT9875 ♣ J	

SLOW PLAY



Bridge is a timed event. In duplicate pairs contests, you get around 14-15 minutes to play two boards. The majority of players recognise they have a right to think but are also caring enough to understand their obligation to contribute to the smooth running of the event by playing within the time constraints. If you are slow, the pair behind you suffers. And the pair behind them. Players who feel they are entitled to play slowly are looking to be uniquely advantaged, since the majority recognise they have no such special privilege. It is simply not a fair contest if a few players feel they can think for an unreasonably long time, while others understand there are reasonable limits that should not be exceeded. In the USA, they use this guideline: "In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than two or three minutes on more than one occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness. Slow play, especially habitual slow play, is a violation

of law and subject to penalty." Directors are required to ensure that slow play does not disrupt the game. The problem does not lie with the laws or the tournament directors. The problem is caused by players, and the solution is entirely in their hands. Pairs who are the common factor when it comes to slow play will always claim the fault lies with the other pair. Any director will tell you that is the way it is. Such pairs don't specify the size of the broom they use to sweep the contradictory evidence under the carpet. (With thanks to Neil Hayward and the 2020 Congress Daily Bulletin.)

NATIONAL TRIALS 2020

by Stephen Rosenberg



The 2020 World Bridge Games will be held later this year in beautiful Salsamaggiore, a spa town in Northern Italy, nestling in the foothills of the Apennine Mountains. The trials to select the Open and Ladies' teams to represent South Africa were held in February in not-quite-as-beautiful Johannesburg! The Seniors' trial will be held end March/early April. The format to select the teams is based on pairs competing in a round-robin tournament, after which the three leading pairs are selected to form a team of six.

The Ladies started with ten pairs, of which two pairs were eliminated after the qualifying rounds; eight pairs then contested a keenly fought round-robin, with the final results as follows:



1st: Desiree Pieters/Chris Child
NGBU/Gauteng
185.55



2nd: Sharon Lang/Roz Bernstein
Gauteng
182.35



3rd: Jenni Gautschi/Peta Balderson
Gauteng
171.93

These are then the six players who will form the Ladies' team in 2020. Diana Balkin and Kathy Driver with 168.10 made a valiant attempt for Springbok honours, but had to be content with 4th place, with Di Rosslee and Carol Stanton close on their heels with 159.43.

The Open section started with six pairs, any of whom would have been worthy wearers of the Springbok colours. However, only three pairs could be chosen, and these were:



1st: Neville Eber/Hennie Fick
Gauteng
167.87



2nd: Andrew Cruise/Tim Cope
Western Cape
164.52



Craig Gower/Alon Apteker
Gauteng
160.92

Perhaps the highlight of the tournament was the final round performance of the two Capetonians, Cruise and Cope; they were lying 5th after the first two rounds with 90.60 points; a whopping 75 points in the final round catapulted them into second position and a place on the Springbok team.

James Grant and Larry Chemaly with 139.76 ended in 4th place, followed by Robert Stephens and Noah Apteker (137.11) in 5th and Cape Town's Glen Holman and Brian Pincus (129.82) in 6th spot.

A NICE SURPRISE!

What we have here is a real piece of Africana! It is a hand-written, signed record of a bridge hand played between General Louis Botha and three fellow passengers on board a ship from Cape Town to Southampton. (For those of you for whom history is a mystery, Botha was a Boer war hero and the first Prime Minister of the old Union of South Africa). The date is shown as December 14th 1918, just after the end of World War I and just a few months before Botha's death in 1919. We are indebted to Durban-based Jeff Murley for getting this from 91-year-old regular bridge player Barbara Johnstone and bringing it to our attention. It came to her from her son-in-law, Hugh Bland whose relative, Annie Bland, was married to General Botha. And yes, the bidding is quite beyond anything we have ever encountered before or since!



General Louis Botha

December 14th 1918

The following records a call of Seven Hearts made and won on a star deal, on board the S.S. "YONAMARU" bound from Cape Town to London

Misses Geseh Barbara
S.S. "YONAMARU"

♥ K Q 10 x x

♦ x x

♣ x x

♠ A x Q x x x

A

Z Y

S

♥ x x x x

♦ x x x

♣ x x x

♠ x

♥ A x Q x x

♦ x x x

♣ x x x

♠ x x x

♥ x x x x

♦ x x x

♣ x x x x x x

♠ x

Calls

A called 1. Hearts

Z - 1 Spades

A - 2 Hearts

Y - 2 Spades

B - 3 Hearts

Z - 3 Spades

A - 4 Hearts

Z - 4 Spades

A - 5 Hearts

Z - 5 Spades

A - 6 Hearts

Z - 6 Spades

B - 7 Hearts

Z Doublet

Y Lost on 1st Spades.

Players

A. Lt Colonel J Mulvaney !!!

Y Mr W E Barker.

B Mr E Mansfield.

Z. General Louis Botha

John Mulvaney

W E Barker

E Mansfield

Mrs Botha

The final contract was 7♥, making 13. No record of the play has come down to us!

CONGRESS 2020

by Stephen Rosenberg

Congress 2020 was held in the Mother City, Cape Town. The teams' event attracted 43 teams that competed in a Swiss-format tournament. Full results are available on www.sabf.co.za.



Leif-Erik and Tolle Stabell

Here we salute only the main achievers, and, with thanks again to Neil Hayward, the Teams Championship Winners for 2020 are the Norwegian Stabell team (Leif-Erik Stabell, Tolle Stabell, Jan Mikkelsen and Sverre Johnsen) who finished victorious in the head-to-head finale verses the Eber team (Neville Eber, Hennie Fick, Anders Morath, Sven-Ake Bjerregaard, Val Bloom and Tas Nestoridis). After agreeing to play a 48-board match, the Stabell team took a convincing early lead winning the first round 29:8. Not deterred, the Eber team fought back valiantly taking the second round 43:23 and virtually levelling the match at 55:51 overnight. Anxious to return to colder climes, the Norwegians stormed ahead in the third round (47:11)

increasing their lead to 102:62. Making up 40 IMPS on 12 boards against the Vikings was never going to be easy and so it proved to be. Well done to both teams for an enjoyable match played in excellent spirits and no need for TD rulings.

In the second tier Congress section, the winners were the Cape Town team of Michelle Alexander, Shirley Kaminer and Jocelyn Ashberg, with a guest from Gauteng in Robert Stephens, followed by the Hamel team from Reunion.



Vanessa Armstrong & Tanya Rawson

The Plate was won by the team of Sharon Lang, Chris Child, Roz Bernstein and Ghita Sandler (all Gauteng) from the mixed Western Cape/KZN team of Martin Grunder, Anton der Kinderen, Keet, Alan Simmonds and KZN's blonde



The Congress section winners, seen here with James Grant

bombshells, Vanessa Armstrong and Tanya Rawson.

The President section was won by the Gautengers Peta Balderson, Jenny Gautschi, Jenny Foaden and Renee Kenny from another Gauteng team, Roy and Ella Danilowitz, Charmaine Lobel and Sharon Izerel. In the fifth tier Consolation section, the team of Shepard, Roberts, Waterman and Worthington took the honours from the team consisting of the McLeods, Botha and Cunningham.

The Pairs' event was contested by 98 pairs. Again, full results are available on www.sabf.co.za.

Among the overseas visitors were Sally Brock and Barry Myers. Sally is a big name in international bridge with five Ladies' European Championships and two



Bernard Donde & Noah Apteker

each Venice Cups, World Bridge Olympiads and McConnell Cups to her credit. She is also the bridge correspondent of the venerable London *Sunday Times* and the published author of fourteen books on bridge. Her partner has also represented the English team in the Camrose Cup. Despite a valiant effort, ending on 59.6%, they had to be content with second place in the top section, just 0.1% behind the winners, Noah Apteker and Bernard Donde. This was mainly due to the winners' outstanding



Barry Myers & Sally Brock

third and final round of 65.3% in a round where the runner-up could only manage 56.3%. Third place went to the two Swedes, Anders Morath and Sven-Akke Bjerregaard.

HAND OF THE DAY #1



Alon Apteker

Alon Apteker was struck by this hand, played against him by Rob Stephens. It is remarkable that James Grant and Tim Cope also mentioned this hand, totally independently. It was played in the Teams' competition at Congress.

Dlr. S	♠ AJT953	
Vul. Both	♥ 2	
	♦ KQ94	
	♣ J8	
♠ 7		♠ 86
♥ KJ965		♥ QT74
♦ JT65		♦ 7
♣ Q92		♣ KT7643
	♠ KQ42	
	♥ A83	
	♦ A832	
	♣ A5	

Here's the hand and the bidding:

W	N	E	S
			1NT
P	2♥ ¹	P	3♠ ²
P	4♦ ³	P	4NT ⁴
P	5♣ ⁵	P	5♦ ⁶
P	6♠ ⁷	P	P
P			

Playing in 6♠, which requires good bidding; let us say a small heart is led by West. If diamonds

are breaking 3-2, the hand is easy. You need to see what can be done if the hand contains a pitfall, which is when diamonds break 4-1. Rather than guess who holds diamond length (if anyone), you can ensure the contract in the following manner. Since an elimination is envisaged, win in hand, lead the ♠K, and, when trumps are found to be 2-1, ruff a heart high, cross to a trump in hand, drawing the last trump, and ruff a heart. Now cash the ♦K, followed by ♣A and a club. If the hand winning the second round of clubs is out of diamonds, a ruff and discard is on the way. If the hand winning the second round of clubs holds four diamonds originally, a diamond lead will reveal the situation, and allow you to wrap the suit up via a marked finesse. And anything else is also going to give you a ruff and discard.

¹ Transfer to spades

² Super accept, at least 4 spades!

³ Cue bid – 1st or 2nd round control

⁴ Key-card Blackwood

⁵ 1 or 4

⁶ Do you have the ♠Q?

⁷ Yes, but no side-suit Kings

HAND OF THE DAY #2

Neville Eber along with Chris Bosenberg, Tim Cope, Glen Holman, Alon Apteker and Craig Gower, was a member of the South African team in Shanghai, China which reached the semi-finals of the 2007 Bermuda Bowl by beating the powerful Italian team, before losing to the USA by a mere 8 IMPs in the semi-finals. Although bridge does not receive as much recognition as it deserves in this country, that was an achievement which filled the bridge-playing community in South Africa with tremendous pride. Neville also plays poker and backgammon at a high level. Some people just love stress!

Dlr: S	♠ AKT973	
Vul: NS	♥ 6	
	♦ QJ75	
	♣ 85	
♠ 654		♠ QJ8
♥ J983		♥ KT7
♦ AT3		♦ 9642
♣ Q62		♣ 974
	♠ 2	
	♥ AQ542	
	♦ K8	
	♣ AKJT3	

Neville selected this board as one to highlight.

W	N	E	S
			1♥
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	3♠	P	3NT
P	P	P	



Neville Eber



Neil Hayward

Leif Stabell found a brilliant lead: the ♠5. This lead breaks the communications in spades between dummy and declarer right away. A suit bid and re-bid with a jump: not many would even consider that lead, let alone actually choose it. Winning with the ♠A, Eber led a club to the ♣J, losing to the ♣Q. The ♦T was exited – another good card – covered by the ♦J. Had the ♦A popped up, Eber was ready to unblock the ♦K to create an entry to dummy. As you see, this did not happen. The ♠K was cashed, followed by four clubs, and then the ♦K, won by Leif Stabell. A spade was now led to the ♠Q, and, the ♥7 was led back (the ♥T would have been better, especially if the ♥K and ♥J been interchanged). Stabell had to overtake the ♥7, playing the ♥8. Eber now had a “free” finesse at trick 12. There are not many bridge hands which are quite as mundane as they might seem. This one, for example, is more complex than a casual look might suggest. Benito Garozzo once said that, if playing at the top of his form, he made around seven mistakes per session. Yet you hear players talk about how they played flawlessly

throughout a session. Bridge is so complex that we cannot see over its horizons to fully appreciate its depth and beauty! (Thanks to Shirley Kaminer for some of the photographs used. Ed.)

HAND OF THE DAY #3

Neil Hayward chose this hand from the Pairs’ tournament for his final Bulletin. It was played by Barry Myers, sitting South and partnering Sally Brock.

Dlr: E	♠ AQ965		
Vul: NS	♥ Q9		
	♦ A7		
	♣ KQ72		
♠ K73		♠ JT42	
♥ 73		♥ T86	
♦ Q964		♦ KT32	
♣ T864		♣ J9	
	♠ 8		
	♥ AKJ542		
	♦ J85		
	♣ A53		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		P	1♥
P	1♠	P	2♥
P	2NT ¹	P	3NT
P	4♣ ²	P	4♥
P	4NT ³	P	5♣ ⁴
P	6♥	P	P
P			

¹ Forcing
² Control
³ Keycard Blackwood
⁴ 0 or 3 Keycards

The lead was the ♣6, taken in hand with the Ace. Barry rejected the idea of trying to engineer a diamond ruff in dummy which would have limited him to 12 tricks. This might have been good enough when paying teams but chasing an extra trick in pairs is a winning policy. So, after winning the club lead in hand, Barry played the ♠8 to the Ace followed by a spade ruff; then the ♥A and a small heart to the Queen. A last spade ruff, draw the last heart and claim the rest – thirteen tricks!

On behalf of all of us at the SABF, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all bridge players throughout Southern Africa, as well as their family and friends whichever is appropriate.



James Grant

SID'S SOLUTION

Trick 1: As declarer, sitting East, you win $\spadesuit K$ in hand (not $\spadesuit A$ in dummy!) and run ALL the trumps bar one. Poor North gets triple-squeezed! This is then the position:
You play the penultimate trump, the $\clubsuit 3$. South discards the $\heartsuit 6$, dummy throws the $\diamond 9$, ... and NORTH?

	NORTH \spadesuit Q53 \heartsuit A \diamond QJ \clubsuit ---	
WEST \spadesuit AKJ \heartsuit K \diamond A9 \clubsuit ---		EAST \spadesuit --- \heartsuit Q8 \diamond 86 \clubsuit 32
	SOUTH \spadesuit 98 \heartsuit JT76 \diamond --- \clubsuit ---	

If North plays:

$3\spadesuit$? Then play the last trump, discarding the $\heartsuit K$, and dummy is high.

$A\heartsuit$? Simply play the last trump and discard the $\spadesuit J$, and dummy is high.

$J\diamond$? This makes it more interesting. Cross to the $\diamond A$, then cash $\spadesuit A-\spadesuit K$ (discarding hearts) ruff a spade (or a heart) and claim your good $\diamond 8$!!

If you play THAT well, then bid the grand, and reap the rewards!

A MOYSIAN SLAM

by Richard Pavlicek

Few North-South pairs obtained a plus score on this challenging deal from a Summer Nationals' Tournament in the USA. With 33 HCP and no eight-card fit, most pairs reached 6 NT, which basically needed a 3-3 club break (or a workable squeeze); not to be; down one.

A few enterprising bidders reached 6 \spadesuit in the 4-3 fit, so-called "Moysian fit" after the late Alphonse Moysse, who wrote many articles about the merits of these contracts. I uphold this philosophy and applaud North's decision to raise spades with such strong trumps, albeit only three. South didn't see any point in Blackwood and simply bid what he thought he could make.

Dir: North Vul: None	\spadesuit K Q 10 \heartsuit A K 6 5 4 \diamond Q 5 \clubsuit 9 5 4	
$a\spadesuit$ 9 8 7 2 \heartsuit Q 10 2 \diamond J 9 8 7 6 \clubsuit 10	N W E S	\spadesuit 6 4 \heartsuit J 9 8 3 \diamond 10 3 \clubsuit Q J 8 7 6
	\spadesuit A J 5 3 \heartsuit 7 \diamond A K 4 2 \clubsuit A K 3 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 \heartsuit	P	1 \spadesuit
P	2 \spadesuit	P	6 \spadesuit
P	P	P	

Declarer counted 11 top tricks, and the best chance for 12 seemed to be a ruff in dummy. (Clubs could not be breaking because West's lead of the $\clubsuit T$ was clearly a singleton or doubleton.) After winning the $\clubsuit K$, declarer crossed to the $\diamond Q$ and back to the $\diamond A$; then came a diamond ruff in dummy as East pitched a club.

Declarer next cashed the $\spadesuit K-Q$. Alas, there was no way to reach the South hand to draw West's trumps; a club would be ruffed, and a heart ruff would fatally shorten South's

trumps. It also would not have helped to overtake the $\spadesuit Q$ with the ace. Down one.

A better plan would be a dummy reversal. Win the $\clubsuit K$ and cash $\heartsuit A-K$, pitching a club; ruff a heart high (just in case); spade to dummy; ruff a heart high; spade to dummy; and draw another trump, pitching a club. Even though trumps fail to split, you're still in clover. Just lead the good heart and pitch a diamond as West ruffs; then claim the rest with all winners. Magic.



THE LEGEND OF THE LITTLE OLD LADIES

by Alan Truscott

After 19 years of chronicling the feats and foibles of people at the bridge table, I was almost convinced that the Little Old Lady, if not a legendary hoax, had become a vanished breed. Not only had potential LOLs dyed their

grey hair and hormoned away their wrinkles, they had salted their sweet dispositions. And I never could believe in the severity of their ineptitudes, mental or physical. An 86-year-old I knew competed in dance contests as well as duplicate tournaments. Between rounds of the latter, she practiced the Watusi.

But in various bridge journals I had kept reading about Little Old Ladies, and I never had given up on meeting some one day — like with the Abominable Snowmen, who have their die-hard supporters.

One evening recently, I thought I'd found a couple, perhaps the last of the almost-extinct species. They drifted up to my table in an aura of lavender and old lace. With prim nods and traces of curtseys, they seemed to be paying a sort of Old-World obeisance to my status as a writer. I beamed gentility back at them.

There were three boards to a round in this duplicate game. My partner and I were North/South, and the ladies held the East-West cards. Here was the first of the boards, with West dealer and EW vulnerable:

North							
S: Q 10 9 6 5 2							
H: J 7 4							
D: 3							
C: J 10 9							
West		East					
S: 4		S: A 8 7					
H: A 10 9 5 2		H: Q 3					
D: A K		D: Q J 10 9					
C: A K 8 5 3		C: 2 8 7 5					
South							
S: K J 3							
H: K 8 6							
D: 6 4 2							
C: Q 7 6 4							
The bidding:							
West	North	East	South				
1 H	1 S	2 D	2 S				
3 C	Pass	3 D	Pass				
3 H	Pass	3 NT	Pass				
Pass	Pass						

The ladies voiced their bids in tender, muffled murmurs. They even had an apologetic air about buying the contract. Against East's three no-trump, I, with the South cards, opened the king of spades. When it held, I continued with the jack. Declarer threw a high diamond from dummy, my partner overtook with his queen and Declarer allowed that to hold, also.

My partner quickly saw what would happen if he continued spades; Declarer would be forced to take her ace but would also be enabled to unblock the other high diamond in dummy on the trick. So he wisely shifted to the jack of clubs. I, too, was aware of the trap my partner had avoided. Very un-Little-Old-Lady-like to have laid such a trap. I decided. Declarer's facial expression was unchanging. A sweet smile played about her lips as she studied the board. Declarer took the jack of clubs with dummy's king and came back with the ten of hearts which rode around to me uncovered. Naturally, I ducked. I wasn't about to set up an entry to the closed hand. Then declarer called for the ace of hearts and a small heart, clearing the suit, and I was on lead with my king.

I promptly returned a small club. Declarer rose with dummy's ace of clubs and played a small club, which my partner took with his ten. There was no use my overtaking with the queen: I would only set up dummy's eight. My partner, however, was forced to exit in diamonds or spades, giving declarer the rest of the tricks for her contract.

A neatly played hand, I thought. But then, anybody can play the dummy these days, even Little Old Ladies. It takes defense to separate the men from the boys — or, in the case, the men from the LOLs.

"We could have made slam in diamonds, partner," one lady confided softly to the other, but I had a hunch few

would be there. I was right, I noticed, opening the traveling score-slip. No one else so far had made game East-West.

On the second board, convinced that aggressiveness would carry the day against our mild-mannered opponents, I pushed to six diamonds doubled against some tremulous opposition in spades. Both sides were vulnerable.

North			
S: 6			
H: 10 7 2			
D: 10 6			
C: A K Q 10 9 6 4			
West		East	
S: A J 9 5 3	S: K Q 10 8 7 4 2		
H: Q 8 5	H: J 6 4		
D: K	D: A 8		
C: J 5 3 2	C: 8		
South			
S: —			
H: A K 9 3			
D: Q J 9 7 5 4 3 2			
C: 7			

The lady to my left chose as her opening lead the five of clubs. I won the trick on the board and tried quickly to get at least one heart pitch on the other high clubs. If either opponent were to ruff in, I hoped it would be with the small diamond and give me a chance to “collide” the ace and king of trumps subsequently. But the lady to my right ruffed by the second round of clubs, not with her eight but with her ace. I discarded a heart, and it did me no good. I had only one heart loser any way with the outstanding hearts breaking three-three.

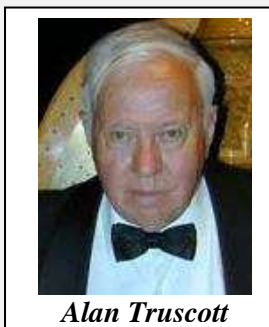
Well, I went off two for 500 points. Nobody else scored more points East-West. Very un-Little-Old-Lady-like again, I thought, first to force me into a phantom save, and second to set me more than one. But I ascribed it to mere happenstance. There was one more board in the set, on which perhaps the ladies would at last fulfil their prototypical roles:

Here, my partner and I reached the coziest contract you ever did see —

North			
S: A K Q 2			
H: A K 8 5			
D: 7 6 2			
C: J 3			
West		East	
S: 9 5	S: J 10 7 6 3		
H: J 6	H: Q 9 7 2		
D: Q 3	D: A 8		
C: A K 10 9 7 4 2	C: 8 5		
South			
S: 8 4			
H: 10 4 3			
D: K J 10 9 5 4			
C: Q 6			

four diamonds. All right, look at it if you don't believe me! It's unbeatable. The lady to my left kicked off with the king and ace of clubs and then, after stroking a powdered cheek with a delicate forefinger, continued with a third club. “Nice try for an uppercut, my dear,” I thought to myself, “but this time I hold too much in trumps.” I ruffed with the deuce on the board, happy to let East waste any small diamond. (I knew East had the ace, by the way, because West had pre-empted in clubs.) And what do you think East did? She ruffed the third trick with her ace of diamonds!

Shortly thereafter I had to lose a second trump trick to the queen and went down one for our third bad board in a row. “Why'd you play your ace of diamonds on that third club?” I asked the lady to my right plaintively. She giggled and replied, “I guess when we kill a contract, we like to kill it dead. We're real devils, aren't we?” Her eyes gleamed mischievously and the satiny skin around them crinkled with diabolical glee. I had had a, uh, a Hades, of a traumatic, three-pronged experience, and take it from me — I know for certain now — that LOLs are no more phantasmagorical apparitions.



About the author.

Alan Fraser Truscott was a British-American bridge player, writer, and editor. He wrote the daily bridge column for The New York Times for 41 years, from 1964 to 2005, the year of his death. He also served as Executive Editor for all six editions of The Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge from 1964 to 2002.

The person who told me this story swears it's true:

“A contestant in a tournament suddenly slumped down in his chair, victim of what seemed like a seizure or fit of some kind. A doctor was hastily summoned. He took the stricken man's pulse and noted that it was steady and firm. Obviously it was no heart attack. From the victim's white face and clammy hands the doctor surmised that this was a case of shock. A bridge player himself, he picked up the victim's cards and studied them. He then turned to the others at the table. "Now let me have a review of the bidding," he requested.” Stephen Rosenberg

UP AND UP THEY GO!



Here 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 achievement!

Michelle Alexander	National Life Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Aras Apteker	National Master	The Links/GBU
Noah Apteker	Premier Life Master	The Links/GBU
Alan Bailey	National Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Jette Bailey	National Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Lynda Barter	Regional Master	Northerns/GBU
Harold Bernstein	Grandmaster	Western Cape/WCBU
Sipke Beyl	National Master	Two Hearts/KZNBU
Penelope Brown	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/SCBU
Shaun Burgess	Regional Master	Highway/KZNBU
Lily Cammerman	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Chris Convery	Premier Life Master	Bridge Centre/WCBU
Andrew Cruise	National Life Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Aubrey Fein	National Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Cecilia Fletcher	Life Master	SAWBA Ladies/ECBU
Neville Gabriel	National Master	Durban/KZNBU
Brian Gamsu	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Ilana Garbutt	Regional Master	Bridge@Orchards/GBU
Pieter Gouws	Regional Master	Friday Club/NGBU
Neville Hammerschlag	Regional Master	The Links/GBU
Renee Kenny	Gold Life Master	Bridge@Orchards/GBU
Phil King	National Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Audrey Klein	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/NGBU
Gavin Kreuter	Regional Master	The Links/GBU
Paul Lawrence	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Les Lazarus	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Mignon Leigh	Gold Life Master	Durban/KZNBU
Michael Linck	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Paul McGrath	National Master	Garden Route/SCBU
Glenda McLeod	Regional Master	KZNBC/KZNBU
Ebrahim Moosa	National Life Master	The Links/GBU
Shazaad Patel	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Dawn Price	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/KZNBU
Jill Rabie	National Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Hazel Sarkin	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Pam Sawyer	Regional Master	KZNBC/KZNBU
Janette Schewitz	National Life Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Malcolm Siegel	National Life Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Jennifer Smith	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Erwin Standl	Regional Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Gisela Standl	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies/WCBU
Carol Stanton	Life Master	The Links/GBU
Mustafa Etko Turk	Regional Master	The Links/GBU
Gerard Verhoog	National Master	Western Cape/WCBU
Peter Ward	Premier Life Master	Garden Route/SCBU

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

THE LAST READ: AN AMAZING HAND FROM AN AMAZING CLUB

by Linda (in her on-line blog), March 1st 2012

Cynthia Wendell is a fine bridge player who lives in our community in Sarasota, Florida. Cynthia frequents the C & G In Between Club, Sarasota's top bridge club, and one of the largest Bridge Clubs in the USA. She brought me a most unusual deal that she played at the club.

The In-Between Club is run by Michelle Golden and on Leap Day (February 29th) they happen to have 72 tables in play. This is not unusual.

Cynthia was playing East in a duplicate with nobody vulnerable when this hand came up. Partner was dealer and Cynthia picked up this little beauty.

East
♠ A
♥ AK10987543
♦ K3
♣ 3

Her partner opened 1♣ and at her table North passed. How would you handle this hand? Cynthia started quietly with 1♥. South passed and partner bid 3♣. What now? Partner's 3♣ does show a good hand, but does partner have the right cards for a grand slam in hearts. It certainly is possible. You need to know two things. Does partner have a heart or two and what about the minor aces?

I suppose that playing regular Blackwood you might just bid 4NT over 3♣ and bid the grand in notrump if partner has both minor aces taking a chance partner does not have a heart void. But what do you do playing key-card? I would assume most people

would play 3♥ is forcing over 3♣. On this hand partner would have bid 4♥ over 3♥ and now you can try key-card. If partner shows only one ace you could take a small chance and bid 6NT instead of 6♥ assuming partner is not off the ♠AK and can provide two quick tricks. If 3♥ isn't forcing you might just jump to 6♥ and hope for the best. That is just what Cynthia did. Most of the time bidding a slam at duplicate is a good result. At the In Between on Leap Day, in Cynthia's section, it was worth 8.5 out of 12 or 11.5 out of 12 depending on the opening lead. Five other pairs played in a slam and two went down when I presume they played 6NT from the wrong side, West.

The whole hand was

Dir. W	♠ KT8763	
Vul. EW	♥ ---	
	♦ Q8642	
	♣ Q5	
♠ QJ5		♠ A
♥ QJ		♥ AKT987543
♦ J		♦ K3
♣ AKT9764		♣ 3
	♠ 942	
	♥ 62	
	♦ AT975	
	♣ J82	



The entrance of the C & G In Between Club

Strangely nobody played 6NT from the East hand.



43.6 % of all slam contracts fail.
62.7% of all bridge players are women.
97.8 % of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.

