



# THE ALL AFRICAN National Congress

## Welcome to Congress

Dear All,

Once again circumstances dictate that our premier tournament will be held online and I trust this will not detract too much from our enjoyment in playing in this event. I sincerely hope that next year this tournament will be live and afford us the opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our tournament committee for the effort and thought they have all put into organizing this event to ensure its success: Jocelyn Ashberg, Roz Bernstein, Helen Kruger and Andrew Cruise

And in advance I would like to thank Waleed El Menyawi and Sid Ismail our tournament directors for ensuring its smooth running. And our bulletin editor Frank Chemaly for keeping us well informed.

Frank would greatly appreciate interesting hands and anecdotes arising



Tournament directors Waleed El Menyawi and Sid Ismail

from this tournament which can be sent to him at [frank.chemaly@inl.co.za](mailto:frank.chemaly@inl.co.za). And to Nicky Stephens, our webmaster where you will find all the bulletins along with results.

Once again It remains only for me to wish you an enjoyable and memorable tournament, and good fortune at the table,  
Kind regards,  
James Grant  
President

## Useful links

Tournament website  
For results, bulletins, and all important notices  
<https://www.sabf.co.za/all-african-national-congress>

Conditions of contest  
[https://www.sabf.co.za/\\_files/ugd/81ad55\\_aa0d139b6dd74e0a831f4a375d93b85b.pdf](https://www.sabf.co.za/_files/ugd/81ad55_aa0d139b6dd74e0a831f4a375d93b85b.pdf)

Play format and important notices  
[https://www.sabf.co.za/\\_files/ugd/81ad55\\_12d74c4a365941aeac85dccb7e46b9a.pdf](https://www.sabf.co.za/_files/ugd/81ad55_12d74c4a365941aeac85dccb7e46b9a.pdf)

General guide lines for RealBridge  
[https://www.sabf.co.za/\\_files/ugd/81ad55\\_b03dc05fc19e4c87a03daf78097c5fa2.pdf](https://www.sabf.co.za/_files/ugd/81ad55_b03dc05fc19e4c87a03daf78097c5fa2.pdf)

Kibitzers website  
<https://kibitz.realbridge.online/>

## Starting times

Day	date	M 01		M 02		M 03		M 04		Note
		From	TO	From	TO	From	TO	From	TO	
16.06.22	Thursday	09:30	11:00	11:15	12:45	14:00	15:30	15:45	17:15	Swiss 12 boards each in 90 min
17.06.22	Friday	09:30	11:00	11:15	12:45					
17.06.22	Friday					14:00	16:00			Groups (A) & (B), 16 boards per match in 120 min
						14:00	15:30	15:45	17:15	Groups (C) & (D), 12 boards per match in 90 min
18.06.22	Saturday	09:30	11:30	11:45	01:45	15:00	17:00			Groups (A) & (B), 16 boards per match in 120 min
		09:30	11:00	11:15	12:45	14:00	15:30	15:45	17:15	Groups (C) & (D), 12 boards per match in 90 min
19.06.22	Sunday	09:30	11:30							Groups (A) & (B), 16 boards per match in 120 min
		09:30	11:00							Groups (C) & (D), 12 boards per match in 90 min
19.06.22	Sunday			Final (S 1)		Final (S 2)		Final (S 3)		Head-to-Head match, 3 X 12
				12:30	14:00	14:15	15:45	16:00	17:30	

## Starting positions

<i>The All-African National Congress 2022</i>		
<i>Open Teams</i>		
Swiss Qualifications - Round 1 draw		
Match = 12 Boards in 90 min		
Apteker	Vs	Leigh
Grant	Vs	Grunder
Narunsky	Vs	Foaden
Thomas	Vs	Van Vught
Der Kinderen	Vs	Bryant
Ward	Vs	Solovei
Keet	Vs	Esmail
Hingle	Vs	Collinge
Donde	Vs	Shepard
Kaprey	Vs	Francis
Cruise	Vs	Bradley
Pincus	Vs	Beinart
Bernstein	Vs	Nick
Balderson	Vs	Tearnan

## Player Profile



Lex van Vught

**How did you start playing?** I always enjoyed games and played a bit with my parents (my mother's regular sayings were 'I never get cards' and 'one down is good bridge')

**What do you enjoy most about the game?** That it's so excruciating.

**Best bridge gift?** For my 60th birthday I received a voucher for three lessons by someone named Craig Gower. I kept it in a drawer for five years before redeeming it. My life hasn't been the same since.

**What basic system do you play?** I am fortunate to have four fabulous partners, and play both 2/1 and SAYC.

**Result you're most proud of?**

Participating as a pupil with Craig and Rob Stephens in championships in Europe, and finishing in the top 150.

**Funny moments at the table?** At the tournament in Italy, Rob and I sat down against Zia Mahmood and I was so in awe that I failed to win his rather deep finesse with my 10 of diamonds. He saw I was crestfallen and said: "If it makes you feel better, it won't make a difference." I said: "So I can sleep tonight?" and quick as a flash he said, "It all depends who you are sleeping with."

**Any tips that have served you well?**

"Put the double card in front of your bidding box" says Craig.

**Which bridge book inspired you?** Why you Lose at Bridge by SJ Simon

**Other interests when not at the**

**bridge table?** Travel, birding, wildlife, photography

**Your favourite colour?** Orange

**Your favourite book/movie?** Richard Osman's books. Movies: Amadeus, The English Patient and, of late, CODA

**Your favourite sport?** Numerous, especially if the grandchildren play them.

**Anything to add?** Bridge has been a huge life enhancer in my retirement.

# Counting points... how good is your hand really?

By Glen Holman

I have been asked to give a few sample hands on valuations in these bulletins and later in a talk for the WC bridge. I have decided to sort of combine them.

To lay the foundation one of the first things I need to teach my students is how to count their points. No, my students are done, but it seems to be common that most students add up 4 for each ace, 3 for each king, 2 for each queen and 1 for each jack and leave it at that.

The idea is to add up High Card Points with Distributional Points to get Total Points (You all see BBO alerts that say 4-7 Total Points).

This idea is older than the time that most of our members have been playing. You can find it in the Charles Goren books of the 1940s.

There are also two methods of counting distributional points: a short suit point, and a long suit point. Let's start with the long suit points.

Here we add 1 point for the fifth card in the suit and 2 points for each subsequent card. So, the following suits are worth:

$Akxx = 7$

$AKxxx = 8$

$AKxxxx = 10$

$AKxxxxx = 12.$

Personally, I believe that for the 7th card or more I think 3 or 4 points for each card is more accurate.

Now comes the idea of adding up the short suit points.

You might be a little surprised that these change depend on the level of fit. The initial Goren method was 1 for a doubleton, 2 for a singleton and 3 for a void. However, if a fit is found, then the count changes to 1 for a doubleton, 3 for a singleton and 5 for a void.

They are vague about what



constitutes a fit. If you are a believer in the power of the 9th trump, hence things like Bergen raises, you may want to wait until you are sure of the 9th trump before you make the full addition.

Finally in the adjustments for distribution, it was recommended that you deduct one point for any 4333 hand. I ignore that since I almost never downgrade a hand, as some of my partners will attest. Although at least keeping it in mind is a useful concept.

While we are making adjustments, the 4321 point count system is certainly not the be all and end all. A more accurate count would be 4.25, 3, 1.75, 0.75, and 0.25 for 10s. If you don't want to count fractions, add a point if you have 4 or more aces or tens, and subtract a point if you have 1 or less.

We will go further into points in long suits and suits with multiple honours all being a good thing and scattered queens and jacks are often not worth the laminated paper they are printed upon.

Now a hand from recent play with a couple of different principles. Playing with David Beinart against Merle Saxe and Bertie Posniak in a WC online game the following wild board came up.

Merle opened 5 diamonds in first position, all vulnerable.

David held 2, J62, AK3, AKQ985 and was stuck for a bid. A double is out



of the question with only the singleton spade, 6 clubs or anything else is very speculative.

In addition, it is the partner who is short in the preempt suit who should strain to bid. David chose the reasonable pass and in the balancing seat I chose to double.

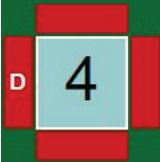
Now what is your choice with his hand?

Here is some of the things that you should be thinking about. It looks like partner has at most a singleton diamond and more likely a void. He is also under pressure to act in the balancing seat. Can he just have both majors?

Maybe, but would he have chosen the double without some tolerance for clubs? I doubt it. If I can ruff a diamond in dummy, then I just need partner to cover my 4 major suit losers. I find it difficult to construct a hand where partner has any semblance of values and not have my 4 losers covered. I think 7 clubs is a pretty reasonable choice.

Since we are committing ourselves to a grand, we should consider 7 nt. Now I don't have a potential diamond ruff, but I may have 13 top tricks. If not a finesse or squeeze against east is a healthy possibility. In addition, you avoid an accident like Bernie leading a major and Merle ruffing it. Are you a lion or a mouse?

Here is the whole hand above.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ 2 ♥ J62 ♦ AK3 ♣ AKQ985	<b>W N E S</b> 5♦ P P X P ?
	<b>W West</b> ♠ 7 ♥ 8 ♦ QJ10876542 ♣ 76	<b>E East</b> ♠ J109543 ♥ KQ953 ♦ ♣ 102
	<b>S South</b> ♠ AKQ86 ♥ A1074 ♦ 9 ♣ J43	

7 clubs is easy with the 2-2 club split. 7 nt makes with 12 top tricks and a fairly obvious major suit squeeze against East. Bidding either making grand, was worth all of the matchpoints. And in our event, I would love bringing back a result to teammates that was greater than 2000. (7 nt = 2220, 7 c = 2140).

One final note, if you apply the above rules and consistently get bad results, James Grant is happy to take your

complaints and refund your entry if he considers your concern to be valid.

### Send me a hand

If you see a hand that partner or even the opps played well, tell me about it. And if it's a blunder, I'll save the culprit's blushes. Mail me at frank.chemaly@inl.co.za or WhatsApp 0832305629

**How did you start playing/what got you hooked?** I play golf and a lot of my golf friends also played bridge and I thought "well let me try it out and then when it rains on a golf day (it's never supposed to rain on the golf course), I can join in and play bridge". Eventually I was persuaded to go the club, but I think I was already hooked.

**What do you enjoy most about the game?** Challenging myself – every hand is so different.

**How long have you been playing?** I started lessons around 2010 and went to the club in 2016.

**Result you're most proud of?** 76.30% with Rob Sulcas in 2019. We joked about giving up at the top of our game.

**First success?** My first Congress in 2020 with Carol Stanton was a highlight.

**Funny moments at the table?** I was playing with late Malcolm Siegel who was at school with my oldest daughter, so we had a special connection. Someone's cell phone rang and he looked at me with

## Player Profile



Jill Rabie

that "Malcolm look" and then blurted out "I'll get it".

**Any tips that have served you well?** Most important is "be kind to partner".

**Which bridge book inspired you?** Points Shmoints by Marty Bergen and 121 Tips For Better Bridge by Paul Mendelson.

**Anything you'd like to change in the game?** I wish some people would alert

and not wait to be asked 3 times what their bid means.

**Other interests when not at the bridge table?** I have 3 married daughters and 5 grandchildren, so my spare time is spent with them. I love reading (James Patterson a hot favourite at the moment) and I do the NY Times Wordle every day. I also love baking, the theatre, art, traveling and music.

**Your favourite colour?** Blue

**Your favourite food/drink?** I love most food but don't compromise when it comes to my Champagne. A nice pink gin & tonic also goes down well.

**Your favourite book/movie?** One of the best books I've read was I Am Pilgrim and the movie I have probably watched the most since the age of 12, is The Sound Of Music.

**Your favourite sport?** Definitely golf. I also love watching tennis and by osmosis I have become a Liverpool fan.

**Anything you'd like to add?** I hope I will still be playing bridge at 90.

# A little practice session

Leif-Erik Stabell, whose Norwegian team won the Congress teams when last held in Cape Town in 2020, minutes before lockdown, has been holding a series of practice teams matches on a Sunday evening, with South African teams taking on the cream of Norway in a 20 board challenge.

On Sunday 12 June there were five teams from each country with three wins and a draw for Norway. (We were hammered by a very promising Norwegian junior team).

As much as it is wonderful to play against players from other country's, Leif's post match analysis makes for excellent reading: logical, sometimes searing, but always insightful and useful. Here is his analysis of three slam hands that caused some consternation.

He ended off by wishing the best of luck for "our" teams in the European Championships played in Madeira this week, and to the South African teams playing in Congress starting today.

## Board 7

	W	N	E	S
				1♦
P	1♠		P	1NT
P	2♦		P	2♥
P	3♥		P	4♣
P	4♦		P	4NT
P	5♣		X	?
S	oddfred			
	♠ 72			
	♥ K932			
	♦ AQJ5			
	♣ A73			

The bidding has been unproblematic so far. Your 1NT showed 12-14, 2♦ was artificial gameforce, followed by two natural heart bids. With a maximum, you were obviously worth a cuebid and when

partner responded with another cuebid, you rolled out RKCB. After all, partner must have a spade control since you have denied one by not cuebidding 3♠.

5♣ showed 1 keycard, and you were about to jump to slam when East was there with a lead-directing double.

That was slightly worrying. If partner has cuebid a singleton diamond with something like 5413, it looks like a club lead might defeat the slam. Can we do anything about it?

Odd decided to give up and signed off in 5♥. That was not a good idea. North couldn't do anything, since from his point of view, two Aces must be missing.

	N	W	N	E	S
	NicolaiHE				
	♠ AKJ105		P	2♥	P
	♥ QJ754		P	3♣	P
	♦ K7		P	4♠	P
	♣ 9		P	5♠	P
			P	5♠	P
			P	6♥	
			5♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0		
			D 7		
			W rurban1		
	♠ 843		E chemaly		
	♥ A		♠ Q96		
	♦ 86		♥ 1086		
	♣ J1086542		♦ 109432		
			♣ KQ		
			S M Lund		
	♠ 72				
	♥ K932				
	♦ AQJ5				
	♣ A73				

So what is the solution? Unless you have already decided otherwise, I suggest you use the following rule: When a response to 4NT is doubled, pass by the 4NT bidder shows that we have enough Aces, but worry about the suit doubled. This would have worked fine this time - partner has an easy 6♥ bid holding a singleton club. Three other pairs also missed this laydown slam, when one of North players just jumped to 4♥ while two Souths "forgot" to cuebid over 3♥. Flat at 680 in one match and in 1430 in two. 13 IMP swings in the last two.

## Board 8

Everyone opened the North hand, so I was surprised to see that Harald was the only South player to drive to slam. Admittedly, Stine volunteered a cuebid of 3♥, but so did several others. How would you play 6♥ on a diamond lead?

	N	W	N	E	S
	stineh				
	♠ A76		P	1♥	P
	♥ Q109743		P	2♥	P
	♦		P	3♠	P
	♣ KJ108		P	4♥	P
			P	5♦	P
			P	6♥	
			5♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0		
			D 8		
			W rurban1		
	♠ Q9542		E chemaly		
	♥ K8		♠ K10		
	♦ J986		♥ J5		
	♣ 94		♦ Q743		
			♣ Q7532		
			S M Lund		
	♠ J83				
	♥ A62				
	♦ AK1052				
	♣ A6				

	N	W	N	E	S
	NicolaiHE				
	♠ A76		P	2♥	P
	♥ Q109743		P	3♣	P
	♦		P	3♥	P
	♣ KJ108		P	5♠	P
			P	5♥	
			5♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0		
			D 8		
			W rurban1		
	♠ Q9542		E chemaly		
	♥ K8		♠ K10		
	♦ J986		♥ J5		
	♣ 94		♦ Q743		
			♣ Q7532		
			S M Lund		
	♠ J83				
	♥ A62				
	♦ AK1052				
	♣ A6				

The full board from our match against the Norwegian juniors

You clearly have to start by discarding your spade losers on AK of diamonds, and all North players then went after clubs, ruffing the third round with ♥6. Alas - West overruffs with ♥8 and returns a spade. Only one tiny chance left now - you need West to have started with ♥K8 bare.

Lo and behold! +980 when then ♥K drops under the Ace and you can ruff the fourth club with ♥2.

11 IMPs to Norway Mixed, but it should be mentioned that Stine didn't really get the problem since East led a club. However, this is how the play went at several other tables in game. Seven North players scored +680 and two +650.

## Board 20

	N	W	N	E	S
	sgs3				
	♠ J76		1♠	P	1♠
	♥ J762		X	3♥	3♠
	♦ A743		5♣	P	5♣
	♣ 72		6♣	P	P
			6♣ E NS: 0 EW: 0		
			D 20		
			W kgsmith		
	♠ KQ4		E castelein		
	♥		♠ A109852		
	♦ QJ962		♥ 54		
	♣ AK843		♦ K8		
			♣ Q95		
			S mixmaster		
	♠ 3				
	♥ AKQ10983				
	♦ 105				
	♣ J106				

Norway Ladies were still leading Oasis by 13 IMPs with one board to go: How do you plan to protect this lead? You must try to guess what they will be doing at the other table, and do the same yourself.

All other South players jumped to 4♥ in this position. However: Agnethe gave Kevin and Chris plenty of room to explore for slam, and they used it. At all other tables, E/W were guessing over 4♥ and stopped in 4♣ or 5♣. There was nothing to the play - 13 IMPs to Oasis and 48-48 in the match.

This board completed a miserable evening for Norway Seniors: Sven-Åke and Rob also stopped in 4♣ after South's preempt, but were given a second chance and took it. 13 IMPs to South Africa Open.

Tim and Andrew were given exactly the same chance as Sven-Åke and Rob, but both took a more pessimistic views. Tim made a forcing pass as East and Andrew doubled as West. There were only 4 tricks to take for 500 to E/W and a 5 IMP loss.