

SABF Mixed Teams Trials Bulletin Number 8

Firstly, I would like to say **Thank You** to the monitors who have been working at the various bridge centres. It's not a terribly exciting job just checking that everything is OK with the players and their devices. I was thanked today by several players for doing this duty. That was very nice!

Secondly, Thank You once again to Bernard Donde who is working hard with running the event, acting as TD, and writing some hand analyses as well. He looks at 3 computers so can truly be said to be multi-tasking (and he's a man!)

So to the Finalists! Yes, the favourites in the Semi Finals have made it through to what I anticipate will be a series of close and exciting games making up the Final. It is the Gauteng based team captained by Di Rosslee who is playing with Greg Hingle. Their partners are Diana Balkin and Jeff Sapire. A wealth of experience here but the other team under the leadership of Imtiaz Kaprey partnering Lorraine Weers and Anton Der Kinderen with Chris Child are equally experienced campaigners. It is very difficult to predict a winning team - I suspect the steadiest team will win through. A poor match result in one of the segments could prove very costly! The Kaprey team will have a 3.43 imp carryover from the round robin going into the final.

Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ SABF Mixed Teams Trials 2025 ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

Semi-Final (14 board segments) 18 March

Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	C/O	Pos.	Seg 1 IMPs	Seg 2 IMPs	Seg 3 IMPs	Seg 4 IMPs
1	Rosslee	145.6	12.6		28	33	50	22
2	Shapiro	87			33	7	17	30
Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	C/O	Pos.	Seg 1 IMPs	Seg 2 IMPs	Seg 3 IMPs	Seg 4 IMPs
3	Kaprey	166.1	3.1		44	40	50	29
4	Foaden	101			10	19	40	32

D		N rottiefan	W	N	E	S
1		♠ KQJ4		P	1♦	2♠
		♥ 109754	3♠	4♠	X	P
		♦ A2	5♦	P	P	P
		♣ 92				
W rixi181			E horace1			
♠ 10			♠ A7			
♥ J3			♥ A2			
♦ QJ8543			♦ K1096			
♣ AK63			♣ 108754			
		S Greg_H				
		♠ 986532				
		♥ KQ86				
		♦ 7				
		♣ QJ				
		5♦ E		NS: 0 EW: 0		

The first board out the box in the semifinal started with a bang. Paul Reynolds made a good decision to open his 11 count as East with 1♦ which worked very well when his partner took the push to 5♦. This made 11 tricks easily on a heart lead. In other matches, East either passed initially or opened 1♣. When opponents competed in Spades, West could not be sure that partner had club length and left their opponents to play in 3 or 4 spades making 9 tricks – a good result for N/S. One pair got to 4♦ making 12 tricks.

D 13	N rottiefan ♠ AK ♥ K7 ♦ K1087654 ♣ Q2	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♦	2♦	2♠	4♥	P	P	5♣	X	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S														
		1♦	2♦	2♠														
	4♥	P	P	5♣														
X	P	P	P															
W rixi181 ♠ 9875 ♥ AQ84 ♦ AJ9 ♣ 74	E horace1 ♠ Q10642 ♥ J109653 ♦ ♣ J8																	
S Greg_H ♠ J3 ♥ 2 ♦ Q32 ♣ AK109653	5♠x S NS: 0 EW: 0																	

This was the most dramatic board of the 1st segment. After East showed the majors with his cue bid of 2♦, Greg Hingle, South, bid 2♠ showing clubs and values. West upped the ante by bidding to 4♥ and

when this came back to Greg, he competed to 5♣. With 2 aces, Erica Zimet, West, doubled and found the most effective lead of the A♦. She gave her partner a ruff and there was second ruff when partner returned a heart. This was a satisfying +500 especially when you consider that 5♦ is cold for N/S.

D 13	N mach1955 ♠ AK ♥ K7 ♦ K1087654 ♣ Q2	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♦	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	5♣	P	5♦	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S																		
		1♦	P	2NT																		
	P	3♣	P	5♣																		
P	5♦	P	P																			
P																						
W deebee2 ♠ 9875 ♥ AQ84 ♦ AJ9 ♣ 74	E Fann4 ♠ Q10642 ♥ J109653 ♦ ♣ J8																					
S shapsy7 ♠ J3 ♥ 2 ♦ Q32 ♣ AK109653	5♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0																					

In the other room, Brent and Mabelle Shapiro (mother and son combo) were the only pair to get to 5♦ on an auction that seems incomprehensible to me. 2NT by North was alerted as 10-11 HCP's with no

major and 3♣ by South showed good diamonds. I presume 5♣ was to play but clearly, North felt that 2NT showed diamond support and corrected to 5♦. 11 tricks later they had won 15 imps (+600 and + 500).

14 D		N mach1955	W N E S
		♠ QJ2	1♦ P
		♥ AJ1054	1♥ P
		♦ 1063	X P
		♣ J3	3♣ P
			3NT D D D
W deebee2	♣ J	E Fann4	
♠ A84		♠ 10975	
♥ KQ83		♥ 6	
♦ 852		♦ AKQJ4	
♣ K76		♣ 854	
	S shapsy7	3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0	
	♠ K63		
	♥ 972		
	♦ 97		
	♣ AQ1092		

Diana Balkin sitting West took advantage of a misdefence on this hand after she got to 3NT when her partner opened a light 1♦ on the East hand. The defence led the J♣ which was ducked all round. When North continued clubs, South erred by not winning the ace as he has no entry and Diana won the K♣. She got to dummy to play a heart which lost to the Ace. North exited with the Q♠ which was ducked by Diana. The J♥ would now have ensured defeat but North continued with a low spade to the king which Diana won and exited a spade. Although the defence now has 5 tricks, there is no communication to the South hand and Diana emerged with 2 spade tricks, 1 heart, 5 diamonds and 1 club. Plus 400 was worth 6 imps when her opponents in the other room stopped in 3♠ making 9 tricks.

The Power of Trumps

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>	N rottiefan ♠ A4 ♥ J432 ♦ A754 ♣ 742	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	3♦	4♣	1♥	P	P	P	4♥
	W	N	E	S										
	P	3♦	4♣	1♥										
	P	P	P	4♥										
W mach1955 ♠ K10986 ♥ Q965 ♦ QJ106 ♣	E shapsy7 ♠ 73 ♥ ♦ K932 ♣ AKQJ1086													
S Greg_H ♠ QJ52 ♥ AK1087 ♦ 8 ♣ 953	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0													

Looking at all 4 hands, it appears as though N/S have 4 losers in 4♥. However, the lack of communication in the E/W hands meant that the contract could make despite this. West led a diamond and declarer, Greg Hingle, won and played a round of trumps getting the

bad news. He then took the spade finesse and did some cross-ruffing leading to this end position (greyed out cards have been played).

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>	N rottiefan ♠ A4 ♥ J432 ♦ A754 ♣ 742	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	3♦	4♣	1♥	P	P	P	4♥
	W	N	E	S										
	P	3♦	4♣	1♥										
	P	P	P	4♥										
W mach1955 ♠ K10986 ♥ Q965 ♦ QJ106 ♣	E shapsy7 ♠ 73 ♥ ♦ K932 ♣ AKQJ1086													
S Greg_H ♠ QJ52 ♥ AK1087 ♦ 8 ♣ 953	4♥ S NS: 8 EW: 0													

At this point, Greg exited a club and swingle and squirm as they might, E/W could only take 3 tricks. If East plays 3 rounds of clubs, West must ruff the third round and is endplayed in trumps. It doesn't help for West to ruff any of the clubs as

she then has to play a diamond or a spade giving South 2 more trump tricks and his contract.

D 12	N rixi181	W	N	E	S
	♠ 10643 ♥ 95 ♦ 876 ♣ KQ107	1♠	P	2♠	P
W deebee2		4♠	P	P	P
♠ AJ982 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ A ♣ J52	E Fann4				
	♠ K ♥ 63 ♦ KQ10932 ♣ A984	♠ Q75 ♥ A10874 ♦ J54 ♣ 63			
	S horace1	4♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0			

This play of this hand was problematic in the mixed pairs event. North led a 9♥ and declarer won with the ace and dropped the J♥. When she played a small spade off the table, South followed with the singleton King. It might seem obvious to finesse the spade 7 and then play the queen coming back to hand with the A♦ to draw trumps and claim 11 tricks. However, consider what might happen if South has false carded with K10 bare of spades and North has led a singleton heart. Now when you finesse the 7♠, South will win and may give his partner a heart ruff. Together with 2 more club losers, you will be 1 down. There is no safe line, so unless you are playing Garozzo, the finesse of the spade 7 looks like the best line and you pay off to a clever false card when North has led a singleton heart and south has found the ingenious false card. Remember this play for next time – whenever you have K10 or Q10, it can sometimes be highly effective to false card with the higher honour.

D 9	N imtiaz1 ♠ ♥ AQJ943 ♦ K6 ♣ QJ543	W N E S 1♥ P 2♣ P 3♣ P 3♥ P 3♠ P 4NT P 5♣ P 6♥ D D D
W foaden ♠ A8432 ♥ 10 ♦ 8752 ♣ 1096		E joepike ♠ QJ1075 ♥ 765 ♦ J943 ♣ 8
	S larobe ♠ K96 ♥ K82 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AK72	6♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Bidding grand slams is always difficult especially when you have voids. None of mixed pairs came close to bidding this one. I think those who chose to bid a game forcing 2♣ with the South hand after partner opened 1♥ had the best chance. It then becomes fairly easy for North to visualise a slam. If partner has as little as the A♣ or K♣ and A♦, the slam may just need a heart finesse. Therefore after 2♣, I think it would be reasonable for North to take over and bid 4♠, exclusion keycard blackwood. When partner shows 3 keycards outside spades, a king ask will reveal the K♥ and bidding 7♣ will be automatic. Maybe I am being a results merchant as on a bad day partner might have AKQ♠ and K♥ with soft diamond values and now even 5♣ is too high. You be the judge.


Do You Know How to Play the Multi?

♠	
♥	KJ5
♦	QJ74
♣	AJ8743

Many SA players play the multi but don't really know how to cope when opponents interfere.

You hold the hand above, both vul, and hear your partner open 2♦ multi which includes a weak 2 in one of the majors. You decide to bid

2♥ which is pass or correct. The next hand bids 2♠ which is passed back to you. What now? If partner has 6 spade you would like to double them and if partner has 6 hearts, you would like to get to 3♥. The best way to play this is to have an agreement, especially at a low level, that double of opponent's major suit inference is a pass or correct double. Therefore, you can double with this hand confident that partner will pass with Spades and bid 3♥ with hearts. What if you want to double 2♠ for penalties yourself? This is unlikely as you are sitting under the spade bidder and will need to have at least 5 tricks in your own hand. The full hand

	N rottiefan	W N E S
	♠ ♥ KJ5 ♦ QJ74 ♣ AJ8743	P 2♥ 2♠ P P P
W rixi181		E horace1
♠ 106 ♥ Q1064 ♦ K92 ♣ 10965		♠ AQJ98 ♥ 932 ♦ A108 ♣ K2
	S Greg_H	
	♠ K75432 ♥ A87 ♦ 653 ♣ Q	2♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

2♠ doubled goes for 500. That will teach them to interfere over your multi!

10 D	N foaden	W	N	E	S
	♠ AKQ5 ♥ KQ743 ♦ K107 ♣ 10	P	1♥	P	P
W chris1756		P	4NT	P	5♥
♠ J10763 ♥ 86 ♦ Q8 ♣ J875		P	6♥	P	P
	S joepike	D			
	♠ 4 ♥ A10952 ♦ AJ54 ♣ 963	E banditos			
		♠ 982 ♥ J ♦ 9632 ♣ AKQ42			
		6♥ N		NS: 0 EW: 0	

Jennifer Foaden and Ian Katz sitting N/S were the only pair to get to this laydown 6♥ contract. I am not sure what the 4♥ bid by South meant on their auction but if I am playing with myself, I would take it as a weak bid with lots of hearts. Clearly, that was not their agreement as blackwood followed and when South showed 2 aces, Jennifer confidently bid the slam.

Interestingly, 1 pair made a sensible splinter bid of 3♠ with the South hand after partner opened 1♥ in third seat. Although North seems to have lots of wasted values opposite a spade shortage, if partner has 2 red aces, the slam may be very playable. If North makes any move towards slam such as a cue bid of 4♣, it would be very hard to stop South from bidding the slam.

Only 96 boards to go in the Mixed Teams trials! May the best team win and good luck to all.

Bernard Donde