

## SABF OPEN AND WOMEN'S TRIALS – BULLETIN NUMBER 4

The finals of the open and women's teams have reached the halfway point. The Eber team has a reasonable but not insurmountable lead against the Cruise team.

♠♥♣♦ SABF Open Teams Trials 2025 ♠♥♣♦										
Final (16 board segments) 26 - 27 February										
Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	Carry-over	Pos.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4	Seg 5	Seg 6
					IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs
1	Eber	148.1	16.1	1	<a href="#">37</a>	<a href="#">53</a>	<a href="#">42</a>			
2	Cruise	97	0	2	<a href="#">54</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">16</a>			

In the Women's, it is very close with the Nestoridis team having a small lead over the Bernstein team.

♠♥♣♦ SABF Women's Teams Trials 2025 ♠♥♣♦										
Final (16 board segments) 26 - 27 February										
Team #:	Name	Total IMPs	Carry-over	Pos.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4	Seg 5	Seg 6
					IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs	IMPs
1	Nestoridis	131.43	1.43	1	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">64</a>	<a href="#">40</a>			
2	Bernstein	115	0	2	<a href="#">45</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	<a href="#">41</a>			

There are still 48 boards to play.

The matches will be on BBO VuGraph from 10h00-14h00 and 15h30-17h30

## Negative Doubles

This hand was instructive in both the Open and the Women's final

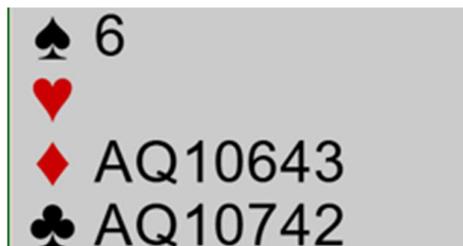
You, South, hold the following hand and, not vul vs vul, the bidding goes as follows;

West North East South

P 1♥ 2♠\* - ?

\* weak

What do you bid?



2 players, one in the open and one in women's final, made a negative double presumably showing the remaining suits, Clubs and Diamonds. Theoretically, that is what you have but the bid is seriously flawed. To illustrate this, what do you bid if partner rebids either 3♥ or 4♥. Now if you bid either minor that is non-forcing and if you bid 4NT, partner might think that is blackwood. In addition, how do you expect to find your minor suit fit? Is partner expected to bid a doubleton or even a 3-card minor after your negative double?

In principle, negative doubles show balanced hands. It is much better to just bid out your shape with this hand. Bidding 3♦ has the advantage that it is game forcing or almost game forcing and when you later bid clubs, you will be showing a highly distributional hand at least 5-5 or 6-5 shape. This is important if opponents pre-empt further in spades which is not unlikely. On this hand West will compete to 3♠ and your partner will now bid 4♦. You are now much better off with a chance to get to slam if partner has the right cards. Partner had K♦

and K♣ and the slam was laydown. The negative doublers had no chance as they had to bid 4NT to show both minors when 3♠ came back to them. Partner assumed they did not have game going values and the slam was missed opposite

♠ J
♥ AQ7642
♦ KJ5
♣ K65

### Disobeying the law

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In its simplest form, the law of total tricks states that it is ok to bid to the level of the number of trumps you hold. Here, Robert Stephens sitting West knew that he only had 8 trumps and therefore bidding 3♠ is 'anti-law'. He made a good

decision to break the law and did bid 3♠. The key factor that made him do it was that he has no values in opponent's suit and he knew that partner had a singleton heart. In addition, he cannot be sure of the degree of the diamond fit in the N/S hands. If it is a 9-card fit, it will be ok to compete to the 3 level. 3♠ can be defeated on a trump lead but South made the normal lead of the Ace of diamonds. Once trumps were not led or switched to, Neville Eber showed that he would make 3♠ even if the clubs did not divide 3-3. He played to ruff both the diamond and the 4<sup>th</sup> club in dummy. In the other room, 3♦ made easily and this was worth a swing of 6 imps.

### **Tournament Director's Viewpoint**

Tournament directors have 2 main roles: a. Interpreting and applying the laws of bridge and b. Administering and organizing bridge tournaments.

Playing online bridge eliminates many of possible infractions that can occur at the table when playing face-to-face. There are no leads out of turn, insufficient bids, calls out of rotation, revokes, exposure of multiple cards, playing more than 1 card to a trick or failing to play a card to a trick and the list goes on. The BBO platform prevents you from making any of these errors. Therefore, the TD has only a few infractions that need his attention. These are unauthorized information from hesitations, misinformation from failure to alert, misclicks and incorrect claims. During these trials I had very few calls from players requiring my intervention. I expected many more calls from hesitations but maybe our players realise the extreme difficulty of always playing in tempo and were reluctant to call me unless there was a gross infraction.

When I agreed to direct this tournament, I had absolutely no experience in the technical aspects of running an online tournament. I had never even set up a team's match on BBO. I was very fortunate in that Rob Stephens was prepared to coach me and train me on the technical aspects. He was patient and thorough in his coaching which is particularly important when trying to teach a coffin dodger like me. I found the challenges of setting up matches, recording and posting of results, development of the website were all difficult because of my unfamiliarity with all these processes. Hopefully, when I run the mixed and senior team's trials, all these functions will be more easily performed because of increased familiarity.

I want to thank all the players for being cooperative in arriving on time, handing in line-up, obeying cellphone rules and generally behaving in a friendly and courteous manner both with me and all the other players. It made my life much easier.

I'm looking forward to running the mixed and senior's trials (not really) and I hope that the entry to these events will be good, justifying the SABF's commitment to sending these teams to the African Zonal and the WBF events in 2025.