

SABF Open and Women's Trials – Bulletin number 2

From the editor: Deirdre Ingersent

My impressions of the S A Trials to date -

The Links Bridge Centre was busy with 16 players present at one time! The players are positioned facing towards the windows, sitting at their individual table with their device. One player brought a dog who was well behaved and never barked at all. It was VERY quiet with not even a sound from any laptop and all players fully concentrating.

Bernard Donde, the Trials Organiser and Tournament Director, sat at a long table watching no less than 3 computers as one of the participants, Noah Apteker, is out of the country. I commend Bernard for doing all this, alone, although Rob Stephens is invaluable, offering technical assistance if needed and practical help too in finding an extension cord etc.

The one clock on the wall is not working, so two men waiting for the next round to start did not realise they should be already seated at their table! Not 30 minutes to wait but 1 minute to the start!

The Open Trials is proceeding as anticipated at present with the Eber team proving their superiority! They use three pairs, Rob Stephens with Noah Apteker, Craig Gower with Alon Apteker and Neville Eber with Hennie Fick. They are a most experienced team with even the younger players having international exposure under their belts already. However, with bridge unexpected results can happen.

In the Women's Trials, 5 teams entered and after the full Round Robin was completed at the end of play today the Bernstein team are out front with the Nestoridis team in 2nd place. Sadly, the Hewitt team just missed qualifying for the next round which is a Knock Out. The Bernstein team also has 3 experienced pairs with Roz Bernstein and Sharon Lang, Diana Balkin and Sharon Izerel and Val Bloom with Nicky Bateman. This event seems closer as in the Round Robin both the top two teams each won 3 matches and lost only 1 with the bye match worth 12 points. Still very open and the need to be steady is crucial. Bidding games and slams when they are on has proved to be very important in these trials. Tomorrow will be exciting!

Women's Trials

After a 2-day round robin the top 4 women's teams will carry on to play a 56 board semifinal knockout. Well done to the Bernstein, Nestoridis, Foaden and Zimet teams for qualifying. The Bernstein team, who led throughout, chose to play Zimet (they will have a carryover of 8.1 imps) and Nestoridis will play Foaden (carryover of 9.1 imps).

The final results of round robin are below:

Team #:	Name	Total VPs	Pen	Pos.
2	Bernstein	66.55		1
1	Nestoridis	57.49		2
4	Foaden	49.64		3
5	Zimet	43.76		4
3	Hewitt	42.56		5

More details can be seen on the SABF website, www.sabf.co.za.

4	N	AKJ4 J54 43 8652	W	P	P	1♦	X
	W	9653 10976 K108 109	E	Q	832	AQJ962	Q43
	S	10872 AKQ 75 AKJ7	4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0				

The above hand was a curiosity in one of the women's matches. Both N/S pairs got to 4♠. My mother would make 11 tricks easily by dropping the Q♠ and taking the club finesse (4 Spades, 4 Clubs and 3 Hearts). Remarkably, in both rooms, the declarers managed to take only 9 tricks – a missed opportunity. Could this be

the start of match fatigue?

14	N	symigirl AK98 10 AKQ1083 QJ	W	inv or more sp supp	P	1♠	
	W	peta_b 765 KQ9754 92 64	E	2NT	P	3♣	
	S	lvsrn Q10432 J32 J6 AK10	E	3♥	P	3♣	
				S	4♦	P	4♥
				S	4NT	P	5♣
				6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			

Tas Nestoridis and Lotte Sorensen had an excellent auction to reach an impregnable 6♠. After South opened 1♠, Tas showed support and an invitational hand or better with 2NT. 3♣ by South showed a minimum. 3♥ by North showed shortage and a slam interest opposite a minimum hand. As South had no wastage in hearts, she was

willing to cooperate and made a waiting bid of 3♠. 4♦ by North showed a control and denied a club control. This was music to South's ears holding ♣AK and she was able to bid 4♥ which was a substitute for a club cue bid (AKA last train bid, South would obviously sign off if she did not have a club control). 4NT black wood followed (**NO ALERT!!!**) and the excellent slam was reached when North discovered that her side had 4 keycards and the queen of trumps. This slam was missed in the other room. A well earned 11 imps.

The Open

The first-round robin was complete today and the Eber team are in the lead with the Cruise team lying second.

Team #:	Name	Total VPs	Pos.
1	Eber	47.85	1
3	Cruise	31.61	2
2	Grant	16.54	3

Full details of the matches played can be found on the SABF website

2	N cruisey	W	N	E	S
	♠ AKJ9 ♥ Q4 ♦ J985 ♣ A72	4♥	P	2♥ P	P
W bkpsc	♠ 1042 ♥ AJ983 ♦ A10 ♣ K43	E diniar			
		♠ Q ♥ K10752 ♦ KQ2 ♣ 9865			
	S KingZlot				
	♠ 87653 ♥ 6 ♦ 7643 ♣ QJ10				
		4♥ E	NS: 0 EW: 0		

A poor weak 2 opening by East was severely punished when it put South on lead. 3 club tricks and spade meant 1 down.

Why is this a poor opening?
A. Very poor suit with only 5 cards – I know we are not vul vs vul. Glen Holman taught me that if you open a weak 2 on a 5 card suit it

must be a good suit. B. Too many outside cards.

In the other room after pass by East, West opened 1♥ and they reached 4♥ which was unbeatable from the West seat.

10 D	N drowzee	W N E S
	♠ 3 ♥ AQJ1097 ♦ KQ3 ♣ J102	2♥ P P 1♠ P P P X
	W bkpsc	E diniar
♠ K9 ♥ K6432 ♦ J6 ♣ A875	♠ QJ8 ♥ 85 ♦ 109874 ♣ 943	
	S NoahApteke	2♥x W NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠ A1076542 ♥ ♦ A52 ♣ KQ6	

Call me a fuddy-duddy, if you must, but I was taught that a 2-level overcall shows a 6-card suit. Bidding with a 5-card suit is only acceptable if you have a very good suit and are in the upper range for an overcall (maybe 13-17 HCP). Besides the risk of a heavy penalty, with

opponents opening with weaker and weaker hands (10-11 has become the norm), often the hand belongs to your side and therefore your overcalls must be constructive in that partner knows what to expect. A hidden disadvantage of poor overcalls it that if you do not buy the contract, you have broken radio silence and given declarer a lot of information that may help him to make his contract. I know that 2♥ takes up a lot of bidding space after a 1♠ opening, but modern experts have become adept at handling this type of interference. N/S defence was ruthless and declarer emerged with only 2 tricks for -1700 and 14 imps.

11 D	N eebs	W N E S
	♠ 987 ♥ Q9864 ♦ 104 ♣ AJ6	P 1♥ 2♣ X P 2♥ P 2♠ P 2NT P 3NT P P P
	W imtiaz1	E em_ge
♠ J1032 ♥ 75 ♦ KJ96 ♣ 752	♠ Q5 ♥ J103 ♦ Q2 ♣ KQ10983	
	S Hcbfick	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0
	♠ AK64 ♥ AK2 ♦ A8753 ♣ 4	

Neville Eber and Hennie Fick had an excellent auction to reach 3NT on this board. 9 tricks were easy once hearts broke 3-2. It looks like 4♥ should make, the extra trick coming from a club ruff in dummy. However, there was no safe way to get back to the weak hand to draw the last trump. 4♥ went down in the

other room for a gain of 10 imps

D	5	N	cruisey	W	N	E	S
		♠ 73 ♥ A ♦ 109642 ♣ AK1043	4♠ P	1♦ 5♣ P	2♠ P	X P	
W	craigy52	E	alonap				
♠ A52 ♥ Q9852 ♦ AQ85 ♣ 8	♠ QJ1086 ♥ J10 ♦ J7 ♣ QJ52						
S	KingZlot						
♠ K94 ♥ K7643 ♦ K3 ♣ 976							
		5♣ N		NS: 0 EW: 0			

Highly aggressive bidding by Alon Apteker and Craig Gower earned their side a big swing when N/S misjudged and took a phantom save against 4♠ by E/W. Luckily 5♣ was not doubled but it still went down 5 tricks for -500. I think an important point to remember is that negative doubles do not promise the other 2 suits, only

the missing major suit. This means that North had no guarantee of a fit making his 5♣ bid highly speculative. In the other room 2♠ by E/W went 1 down on a misplay by declarer.

D	14	N	cruisey	W	N	E	S
		♠ Q8 ♥ J87632 ♦ Q6 ♣ QJ8	P P P 3♣ D	1NT P 2NT 3♥ P	P P P P	1♠ 2♠ P	
W	craigy52	E	alonap				
♠ A1075 ♥ KQ9 ♦ 1094 ♣ K105	♠ K ♥ 54 ♦ A8732 ♣ 96432						
S	KingZlot						
♠ J96432 ♥ A10 ♦ KJ5 ♣ A7							
		3♥ N		NS: 0 EW: 0			

An aggressive balancing action by Alon Apteker when his opponents subsided in 2♠ earned his side a swing when N/S misjudged the situation and competed to the 3 level in hearts. A good tip from Craig Gower is that when you have high card points in your opponent's suits, they have high cards in your suits. This makes defending a better option.