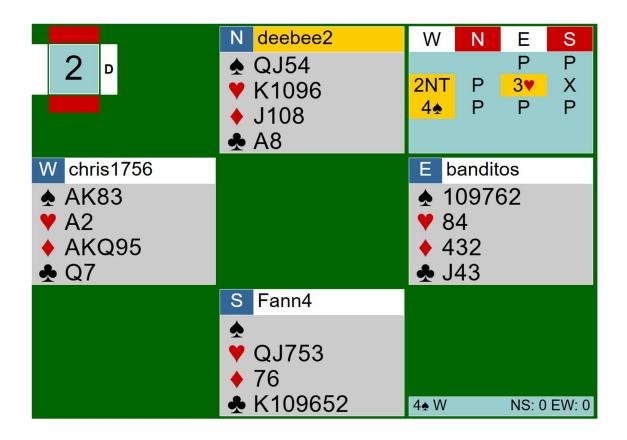
SABF Mixed Teams Final Bulletin Number 9

At the halfway point of the S A Trials, with 3 segments of 16 boards each played, the Rosslee team has a total of 154 points and the Kaprey team has 112.43 points. However, all is by no means lost as the Kaprey team, having lost the first two segments, made a really good comeback in the 3rd segment to snatch a win on the last two boards played (with 2 big swings) when it looked like the Rosslee team had that segment all sewn up as well.

Now we all know that bridge is a tricky game and a few big swings can easily alter the outcome of a match. So, we will wait to see what happens in the last 3 matches played tomorrow. Will stamina come into the equation at all? I fancy solid steady play at the right moment will be important for victory.

Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent

Segment 1



The imps started to flow on the second board of the Mixed final when Jeff Sapire found a lead directing double of East's $3 \cdot$ transfer. This got Diana Balkin off to the best lead of a heart and declarer now had to lose 4 tricks, 2 spades and 2 clubs. In the other room there was no lead directing double, North made a standard opening lead of the J \cdot . $4 \cdot$ could still be beaten but a misdefense allowed it through. This sort of lead directing double does not always work. Sometimes it induces partner to lead an unsupported A \cdot which would not successful. On this hand it made defeating $4 \cdot$ easy and was worth 10 easy imps to the Rosslee team.

	N imtiaz1	W N E S
3 □	 ▲ A975 ♥ KJ6 ◆ J8 ▲ AQ43 	P P 1NT P 2↓ P 2♥ P 2NT P 3♥ P P □
W Greg_H		E <mark>rottiefan</mark>
 ▲ QJ2 ♥ 74 ♦ A1075 ♣ J975 		 ▲ K86 ♥ Q95 ♦ K432 ♣ 1082
	S larobe	
	 ▲ 1043 ♥ A10832 ♦ Q96 ♣ K6 	3▼ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Another swing on board 3 occurred when Kaprey stopped safely in 3. Making 10 tricks depends mainly on finding the Q. When Diana Balkin mis guessed, this was 6 imps to Kaprey

Score: Kaprey: 8 Balkin 10

□ 4	N imtiaz1 ▲ J954 ♥ AQ9642 ♦ Q5 ♣ Q	W N E S 1♠ 2♥ 3♠ P 3♦ P 4♣ P 4♠ P P P
 ✓ Greg_H ▲ AKQ763 ♥ J ♦ AJ942 ♣ 9 		 E rottiefan ▲ 10 ♥ K753 ♦ K ♣ KJ76543
	 S larobe ▲ 82 ♥ 108 ♦ 108763 ▲ A1082 	4 ≜ W NS: 0 EW: 0

An aggressive 3* bid by Di Rosslee got her side to a thin 4* contract. North led the A* and switched to the Q* covered by the king and won by South who switched to a trump. Declarer drew trumps, got to dummy with a diamond and pitched 2 diamond losers. When the Q* came down, all the defenders could take were 2 aces and the J*.

In the other room, East did not bid over 2• and EW subsided in 2. for a 10 imp swing to the Rosslee team.

Score: Kaprey 8 Balkin 20

□ 5	 N imtiaz1 ▲ A4 ♥ 10963 ♦ KQ7 ♣ K763 	W P P	N 1♣ 1NT P	E P P	S 1 ≜ 3NT
 W Greg_H ▲ Q95 ♥ QJ7 ♦ 952 ▲ AJ52 		∳ 1 ♥ ŀ	ottiefa 0763 (842 108 04		
	 S larobe ▲ KJ82 ♥ A5 ♦ A643 ♥ Q98 	3NT N	1	NS: () EW: 0

Board 5 was 10 imps back to Kaprey when Imtiaz made 9 tricks in 3NT after a probable miss click or loss of concentration by West. When East led a heart and declarer went up with the Ace. West curiously played the J_{\bullet} on this trick. There was no recovery when North then made 2 spades, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds and 1 club. 10 imps to Kaprey

Score: Kaprey 22 Rosslee 20

Of interest on the hand is how do you play the club suit for 2 tricks?

My book says lead low to queen. If it loses to the Ace, Finesse the 9 and then finesse 8. This works on the this hand.

6	 N imtiaz1 ▲ 1095 ♥ AQ742 ♦ Q1094 ♣ J 	W P P	N 2♥ P	E 1∳ P P	S ₽ 3♥
 W Greg_H ▲ A8 ♥ J103 ♦ 65 ♣ 987642 		◆ C ♥ K	J82		
	 S larobe ▲ KJ7 ♥ 865 ♦ K73 ♣ AK105 	3 ∀ N		NS: 0	EW: 0

In both rooms the auction started the same way with West electing to pass East's 1 \bigstar opening. I believe it is wrong to pass an opening bid with an ace and it is not difficult to construct a hand where even 6 \bigstar is cold opposite KXXXX, A, AX, AKXX. This left North with a difficult decision on whether to balance. I think the vulnerability favours taking action. Imtiaz bid 2 \checkmark that was raised. 9 tricks were made in hearts for +140. In the other room 1 \bigstar was passed out and made 7 tricks for +80. This meant 6 more imps for Kaprey

Score: Kaprey 28 Rosslee 20

	N imtiaz1	W N E S
7 D	 ▲ 63 ♥ KQJ ♦ A ▲ AKQ7543 	P 1≜ <mark>3≜</mark> P <mark>4≜</mark> P 5≜ X P P P
W Greg_H		E rottiefan
 ▲ AQJ82 ♥ 106 ♦ QJ965 ♣ 6 		 ▲ K7 ♥ A942 ♦ K43 ♣ J1092
	S larobe	
	 ▲ 10954 ♥ 8753 ♦ 10872 	
	♣ 8	5 ♣ x S NS: 0 EW: 0

A light opening by Greg Hingle paradoxically propelled the auction into the stratosphere. 5* doubled went 2 down doubled for -500. The North hand will usually make 10 tricks on its own. However, he also knows there are 2 spade losers. Only if partner has the A*, will 5* be making. Is this too much to expect? A difficult decision but he got punished for being wrong when East doubled 5*.

In the other room, West passed and North opened 1. When South couldn't respond to that, there was no danger of getting too high (partner will always respond with an Ace) and N/S bought the contract in 2. This made 9 tricks for +110. That was 12 imps to Rosslee.

Kaprey 28 Rosslee 32

■ 8	 N deebee2 ▲ A7 ♥ KJ87654 ♦ K73 ♣ 6 	W N E S 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ 3♥ 4♠ 5♥ X P P P
 W chris1756 ▲ KJ10654 ♥ Q9 ♦ AJ64 ▲ A 		 E banditos ▲ Q82 ♥ A ♦ Q985 ♣ J9753
	 S Fann4 ♠ 93 ♥ 1032 ♦ 102 ♣ KQ10842 	5 ▼ x N NS: 0 EW: 0

Diana found a good save against 4 when she went 2 down for -300 vs 420 scored in 4 in the other room. 3 imps to Rosslee

Score Kaprey 28 Rosslee 35

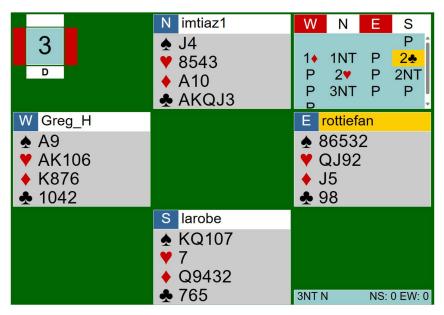
With 63 imps changing hands in only 7 boards, this looked like it was going to a humdinger of a match!

Not so, as the next 9 boards were all tame with only over and undertrick swings all going in one direction to the Rosslee team.

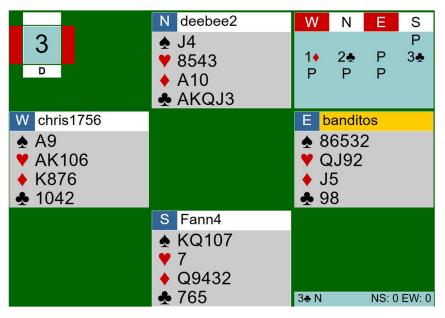
The final score after the first segment was

Kaprey: 28 Rosslee 42

Segment 2



N/S overreached to 3NT which had no play.



In the other room, N/S stopped in 3. which made easily.

5 imps to Rosslee



The first big swing of the 2^{nd} segment came on board 4. The hand illustrates the danger of cue bidding a shortage in partner's first suit especially when you are minimum for your actions up till that point. In the one room, this cue bid propelled their side to a poor 6 \bigstar which was one down. In the other room, Imtiaz did well not to cue his heart singleton and so there was no danger and they stopped safely in 4 \bigstar . 13 imps to Kaprey

Kaprey 45 Rosslee 48

5	 N imtiaz1 ▲ K103 ♥ K8 ♦ K874 ♣ KQJ7 	W N E S 1NT 2♣ P 4♥ P P P
 W Greg_H ▲ 752 ♥ AQJ107 ♦ A10532 ♣ 		 ► rottiefan ▲ AJ86 ♥ 6532 ♦ Q ♣ 10963
	 S larobe ▲ Q94 ♥ 94 ♦ J96 ▲ A8542 	4▼ W NS: 0 EW: 0

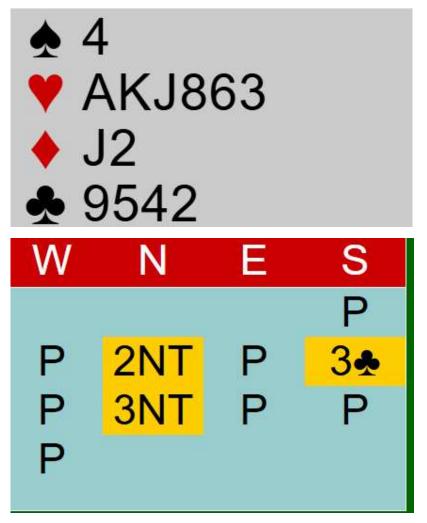
Taking advantage of the favourable vulnerability, Di Rosslee, East, made a very cheeky Hamilton bid showing both majors that propelled their side to $4 \cdot$. This made 10 tricks after Greg was allowed to make 5 trump tricks in his hand, 2 diamond ruffs in dummy, 2 diamonds and the A. In the other room, declarer misplayed and ended up with only 8 tricks in $3 \cdot$. 10 imps to Rosslee.

Score: Kaprey 45 Rosslee 58

Board 6: 11 imps went to Kaprey in 4 how when their opponents did not give them a guess as to whether to put in the King or Jack from KJXXX opposite XX. Declarer miss-guessed in the other room and went down.

Board 7

What do you lead from East hand when the bidding has gone



3. was puppet stayman and 3NT showed no majors

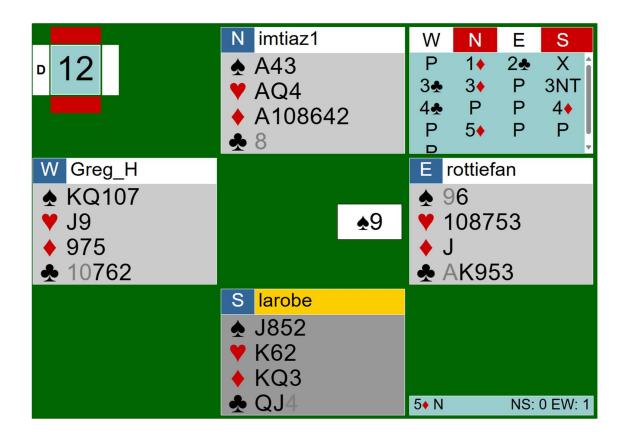
East chose to lead a low heart in one room and a high heart in the other room.

The low heart lead led to -690 and the high heart led to +200 as declarer had H QX

13 imps to Rosslee

Score: Kaprey 56 Rosslee 71

Boards 9 and 11 were double digit swings to the Rosslee team when better declarer play or defence earned them 13 and 10 imps, respectively.



Di Rosslee sitting East did 2 good things on this board. She overcalled 2* reasoning that a lead directing bid may be of more value than showing a 2 suiter or passing. This encouraged her partner Greg to compete to 4* taking opponents out of their comfortable 3NT contract. When they went onto 5*, Di lead the A* and then found the excellent switch of spade rather than a heart. She was helped by Greg's play of the 10* as a suit preference signal (his count and attitude would be known as soon as North follows to the A*). This meant 1 down and a well-earned 13 imps to Rosslee when their teammates were allowed to play in 3NT making +660 in the other room.

Score: Kaprey 56 Rosslee 108

14 □	 N deebee2 ▲ Q1053 ♥ K8 ♦ AQ10985 ▲ A 	W N E S 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ 4♠ 5♥ P P P
 W chris1756 ♠ 92 ♥ J1096 ♦ KJ63 ♣ 542 		 E banditos ▲ K7 ♥ AQ75432 ♦ ▲ KJ76
	 S Fann4 ▲ AJ864 ♥ ♦ 742 ▲ Q10983 	5 ▼ E NS: 0 EW: 0

5 v undoubled went only 1 down on this board. In the other room N/S correctly took the push to 5 h which made easily.

8 imps to Kaprey

When the smoke cleared by the end of the segment the score was

Rosslee 109 Kaprey 64.4

Segment 3

2	N deebee2 ☆ ♠KJ64 ♥106 ♦A9864 ♣86	
W chris1756 8 ♠10 ♥A7543 ♦KQ72 ♣K42	W N E S 2♠ 3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 3NT PassPass Pass	 E banditos 9+ ▲ A 8 7 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 9 ◆ J 10 5 ♣ 9
M K 4 Z	S Fann4 ☆ ♠Q9 ♥K82 ◆3 ♣AQJ10753	3NT North 0 0

On this hand, the weak 2 opening by East and Multi 2+ opening in the other room propelled both N/S's to get overboard to 3NT. This was not а success when that went 3 down in 1 room and 4 down in the other when clubs

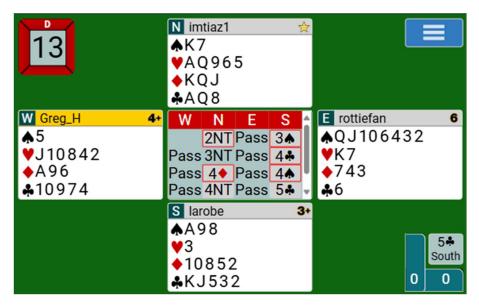
did not behave.

7	N <u>imtiaz1 ☆</u> ♦5 ♦1085 ♦K987 ♣J10986	
W Greg_H 4+ ▲J10843 ♥74 ◆Q52 ♣AK3	W N E S Pass PassPass 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 4♣ Pass 4♠ PassPassPass	E rottiefan 6 ▲AQ92 ♥AKQ93 ▲AJ4 ♣7
	S larobe 3+ ♠K76 ♥J62 ♦1063 ♣Q542	0 0

East opened 1 • and when partner bid 1 • she bid 4 • showing a good raise with a club shortage. This was mixed news for West. He had some wastage in clubs but he had 10 HCP's when he could have had 6. In addition, he had 5 spades when

he could have had 4. When partner splinters, it may be a good idea to play the bid of the suit below trumps just says my hand has some value but I cannot go beyond game. Here if they play this agreement, West could have bid 4 v to keep the auction alive (a dangerous bid if you don't have this agreement) and the excellent slam would not have been missed. In the other room, East just took control and bid the slam.

13 imps to the Kaprey team.



A very ambitious slam try by the South hand holding only 8 HCP's opposite 20-22 balanced led to a 5* contract that went 1 down when the distribution was unfavourable. 3NT was an easy make in the other room. This meant 13 imps to Rosslee.

Board 14

This was a lead problem



You are sitting East and hear the above auction. What is your choice?

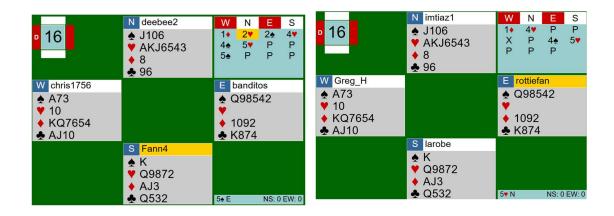
Once you have a sure entry to your hand (A_{\bullet}) it must be better to lead a top spade rather than the 4th highest. When you see partner's signal, this may give you a clue as to whether to continue spades or switch. Leading a low spade was fatal when the hands turned out as follows

14 □	 N imtiaz1 ▲ QJ84 ♥ A1084 ♦ K1096 ♣ 8 	W N E S 1♠ 2♣ P 2NT P 3NT P P P
 W Greg_H ▲ 109 ♥ KJ93 ♦ Q32 ♣ 9732 		 E rottiefan ▲ AK653 ♥ Q762 ♦ J7 ♣ A6
	 S larobe ▲ 72 ♥ 5 ♦ A854 ♣ KQJ1054 	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

If you lead the A, partner will discourage and a heart switch will be attractive. Declarer can no longer make 3NT.

In the other room, South got to 3*. This proved to be unmakeable when Anton Der Kinderen in the East seat found the correct defence after partner led a high spade. He continued spades and declarer could not avoid losing 2 spades, 1 diamond and 2 Clubs when continued spade leads promoted the 9* to another trick.

This was 10 badly needed imps to Kaprey



2 excellent results were obtained by the Kaprey team when in the first room, E/W competed successfully to $5 \bigstar$ for +650. This was unbeatable. In the 2nd room, the defence lost its way and $5 \checkmark$ made 11 tricks for +450. This double game swing was 15 big imps to the Kaprey team. Note the differences in evaluation of the North hand in the 2 rooms. I think I much prefer the $4 \checkmark$ pre-empt rather than $2 \checkmark$. In the bad old days, the North hand would be considered an average $3 \checkmark$ bid. Nowadays, you would be called a ninny for bidding only $3 \checkmark$, at the prevailing vulnerability.

Kaprey made a big comeback on the last 3 boards where they picked 25 imps.

Score at end of 3rd segment: Kaprey: 112.4 Rosslee: 154.

There are still 48 boards to go making this lead easily surmountable.

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

Т	eam #:	Name	Total IMPs	Carry-over	Pos.	1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4	Seg 5	Seg 6
	1	Kaprey	112.43	3.43		IMPs <u>28</u>	IMPs <u>33</u>	IMPs <u>48</u>	IMPs -	IMPs -	IMPs -
	2	Rosslee	154			<u>43</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>45</u>	-	-	-

Final (16 board segments) 19-20 March