

## **Editor's Comment**

Let's start with some VERY GOOD NEWS!

The SABF subscription fees remain unchanged at R250 per annum which is amazing when you think how much other things have gone up, e.g. just buying food in the shops, most services, eating out, all increased way above our S A inflation rate! And we feel we are giving value for money and doing our best to provide a bridge service which our members want.

At our last SABF Committee Meeting the issue of face to face events versus bbo or RealBridge using devices was discussed at considerable length. It seems the issue of cheating when using devices is a real problem. I am afraid to say, my personal opinion, I cannot understand why anyone would want to cheat to win a bridge event. Where is the glory in that? The prize money here is very little so it cannot be to win 'big bucks'. Surely one wants to win because one has played well within the rules of the game. Even Trials being strictly monitored in bridge centres is not enough - cheating there happens apparently. Online events at home are even more open to suspicion, especially if two people in one household are playing together. Are they colluding or even an innocent 'Darling, remember we are playing this convention' called out loud is cheating! Also crib notes as an aid to remembering your system are of course not allowed at face to face bridge but I overheard a tutor once say to his pupil 'Have my notes at hand for reference you know'. It is a very touchy subject at bridge.

However on a practical level we all know that online bridge is here to stay, its use and popularity increasing in Covid times, and the convenience of it suiting players, no need to get the car out, dress up, or even find a partner, means many bridge players prefer it to face to face. I would urge bridge enthusiasts to go back to their local clubs as they need their members to survive, and with bridge in South Africa very much the domain of older players, it already means we are losing folk who are no longer with us.

Let's make a New Year Resolution to play face to face events and travel to them whenever possible. Let our National Bridge Congress which is being held in Cape Town from 12 - 19 April 2026 receive a bumper number of entries. Out - of - towners start saving now for an airticket and accommodation costs and get booking as quickly as possible to get good prices. If you contact **Jocelyn Ashberg** on cellphone number 083 4603911 she will be able to assist you



with any offers on accommodation they have found, or generally give advice. It is high time to renew bridge friendships face to face rather than typing a 'Hi there' when you play against them in a face to face event.

May I conclude by saying **ALL THE BEST** to all our members over the coming holiday season, Christmas and Hannukah.

Yours in bridge,

**Deirdre Ingersent** Cell No: 082 430 4140 and email: [dingersent51@gmail.com](mailto:dingersent51@gmail.com)

P.S. If there is anything particular you would like to know about please let me know, or just writing an article yourself would be great!



*'So I told them, "Ladies, you've got to be fit to play in our bridge tournament" '*



## ***NOVEMBER was sure the month for BRIDGE EVENTS!***

***SAWBA held both their Pairs Event and their Teams.  
Both events were held using the RealBridge platform***

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### **1. PAIRS EVENT**

Qualifying Rounds were played first to divide the entry of 42 pairs into 3 Sections of 14.

The Final results were as follows. As one can see, no Section was easy and Many Congratulations to all these players

A Section: 1st Merle Modlin / Ghita Sandler. 2nd Tas Nestoridis / Lotte Sorensen.

3rd Vanessa Armstrong / Peta Balderson

B Section: 1st Delys Shepard/ Helene Roberts. 2nd Carol Grunder / Jill Rabie.

3rd Jennifer Matisonn / Louise Berman

C Section: 1st Diana Balkin / Sharon Izerel. 2nd Trish Crosse / Bev Hewitt.

3rd Toni Hendler / Meryl Cohn

### **2. TEAMS EVENT**

Again no easy matches and many days of bridge were played. Congratulations to these teams listed below

A Section: 1st NESTORIDIS 91.39 2nd RABIE 85.88 3rd HEWITT 79.50

B Section: 1st ALEXANDER 97.73 2nd SHEPARD 88.44 3rd SOLOVEI 84.00

It was a well organised competition although the organisers would have welcomed more entries in both events. A little disappointing to think that this event is always open to any ladies of any standard living anywhere within South Africa. A different timeslot will be used in 2026 to see if that will encourage more entries.

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The SABF held a MIXED TEAMS EVENT, again using the RealBridge platform. I am reliably told that Mixed Pairs and Mixed Teams are an extremely popular event in the European countries and it is hoped that South Africa can hold more of these style competitions. This 2025 event sadly only attracted 14 teams. A high class entry though and a total of 156 boards were played so quite a marathon!

Congratulations to all the winners!!



**OVERALL WINNERS** - OLIFF TEAM 178.29

Mark Oliff and Vanessa Armstrong, Lotte Sorensen and Rob Stephens

**RUNNERS-UP** - KEET TEAM 170.25

Duncan Keet, Asli Acar, Anton Der Kinderen, Berrak Erkan, Orhan Topal

**B SECTION WINNERS** - STERN TEAM 123.70

Zela Stern and Selwyn Gersowsky, John Bryant and Sue Botha

**B SECTION RUNNERS-UP** - SHAPIRO TEAM 119.83

Machelle Shapiro, Jude Apteker, Brent Shapiro, Lara Woznica, Merle Modlin, Peter Ward

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A MIXED PAIRS EVENT was held over 3 Sessions using the BBO platform. This event attracted a class entry of 24 pairs and was beautifully arranged by Rob Stephens to be a TOTAL ROUND ROBIN. Three boards per round were played.

CONGRATULATIONS to these pairs on finishing in the top three places.

1st NEVILLE EBER and VAL BLOOM 62.12%

2nd TERRY EAST and JAN EAST 60.55%

3rd IMTIAZ KAPREY and ZELA STERN 58.93%

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Peter Ward submitted this report about THE OUTENIQUA OPEN TEAMS played on 29 and 30 NOVEMBER, an online event.

This was proudly sponsored by Personal Trust and had an entry of 14 teams who played a 1 Day Swiss Qualifying, followed by a 1 Day A and B Round Robin Final.

Congratulations go to the WARD TEAM for winning the OVERALL TITLE - Peter Ward with Merle Modlin, Andre Van Niekerk with Rose Duff

Congratulations go to the LEIGH TEAM for winning the B SECTION

Mignon Leigh, Johan Bouwer, Nanette Clouston, Sandy Condotti

Lastly, the GBU hosted a most successful red point face to face event at THE LINKS on Sunday December 7th. Only 30 boards were played - 2 playing sessions of 15 boards each separated by a magnificent High Tea.

This attracted an entry of 59 pairs who were split into 3 random



sections. Many of these players had not played a face to face event in many a year (since before Covid some of them) and thoroughly enjoyed the social aspect of playing a live event. It was well organised by the GBU with Rob Stephens organising the setting up and Bernard Donde acting as the TD.

**A SECTION WINNERS** - MERLE MODLIN and GHITA SANDLER RUNNERS-UP ROB STEPHENS and JUDE APTEKER

**B SECTION WINNERS** - BEV KASSEL and SUSAN CUSTERS RUNNERS-UP RONNIE LEVINE and MYRON ELIAS

**C SECTION WINNERS** - SANDRA LEVER and JENNY LICHTENSTEIN RUNNERS - UP EVELYN GOOTT and DAPHNE DORF

*Article compiled by Deirdre Ingersent*

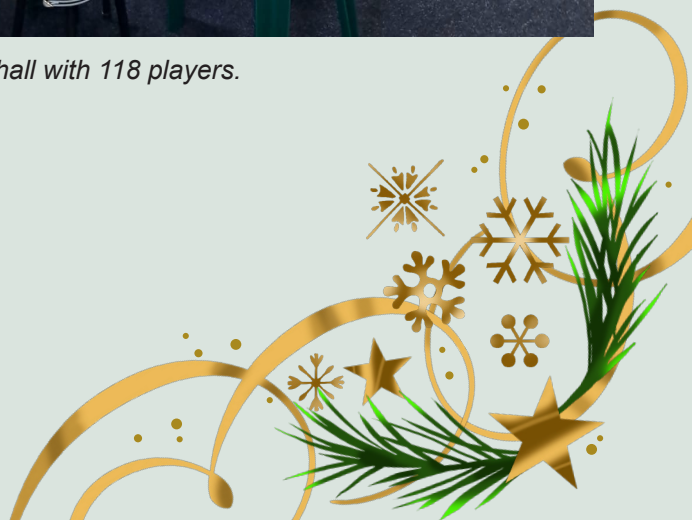


*Merle Modlin congratulating her partner Ghita Sandler on their excellent 1st place!*



*Full the hall with 118 players.*

*(Rumour has it these two ladies play a lot online but have rarely been seen live at their local club The Links)*



## **WESTERN CAPE**

### **WC Pairs Tournament**

The W.Cape Pairs tournament took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September at the Bridge Centre with 25 pairs who participated. It was a lovely weekend with a high level of competitiveness in a convivial atmosphere and everyone was well fed with delicious morning and afternoon teas and a light lunch on both days. Everything ran very smoothly with Neil Hayward as the TD.

Congratulations to the winners:

**A Section:** Saul Burman & Andrew Cruise came first with Imtiaz Kaprey & Jill Rabie as Runners-up.

**B Section:** Robyn De Biaggi & Sharon Kahn were first (with Lara Woznica playing one session) with Derek Hodson & George Dreyer as Runners-up.

There was also a one session tournament on the Saturday afternoon for those who have 1-5 masterpoints (**C Section**): with Sue Lipman and Karen Shandel as the winners. Saul, Andrew, Jill and Imtiaz.

*Submitted by Shirley Kaminer*



*Robyn and Sharon*



*Saul, Andrew, Jill and Imtiaz*



## **BEDFORD**

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The last weekend of September saw the 19th staging of the Bedford Spring Teams tournament. Bedford is a small village at the centre of a vibrant farming community. The good folk of Bedford have fashioned great social facilities over the years.

The Bedford Club was built in 1904 in the British colonial tradition of gentlemen's clubs. Ladies were welcomed in the 1980s and the first Lady President inaugurated in 2020. The Bowls and Tennis clubs are next door and a great 9 hole Golf course nearby.

The Bridge tournament and the Spring Garden Festivals are both held within a 3 week period with the original aim of raising funds for the local hospital.

The Bedford Bridge Club has 10 active members affiliated to SABF through Sunshine Coast. Heidi Atkinson and Arie Ridderhof initiated the tournament with Doug and Sandy Trollip. Heidi and Arie provided the expertise and equipment and Heidi was the TD for many years.

The Clubs in the Eastern Province continue this support.

Since Covid there have been at least 14 teams/year which is some way down from the record of 24 teams but it is ideal for a competitive round robin competition.

Teams come from Eastern Province and Southern and Western Cape. This year's winners were the Paterson team (Grahamstown / Kenton) followed by Gillespie (Port Elizabeth) and Malan (Jeffreys Bay)

The lower attendance and rising costs meant that the competition was a financial breakeven.

The Club, decided to donate its prior accumulated funds of R 33 000 to local charities.

As the tournament is open to all, no masterpoints are awarded but that never spoils a great weekend of Bridge and wonderful hospitality.

***Submitted by Geoff Ellis***



## EDITION 22 - BBO - Once a Month - TEAMS will be Starting JAN '25

Hi All,

As email Friday (the 14th Nov) we are rolling out EDITION 22 come JANUARY, and need entries & re-entries as well.

The good news is, we have already received one new team and so far here are the (existing) Teams who have confirmed they will be returning - January '26

- Social Bridge Club
- Links 2
- Champs
- Knysna
- Durban 2
- PECBC
- Kenya

(In no particular order of course)

### **Comment by Deirdre Ingersent**

*I play in it myself with the Social Bridge Club team.*

### **It is a friendly event and free!**

*We have been doing it for a number of years now! Not a big commitment and Duncan runs it extremely proficiently, accepting results via email or WhatsApp.*

*There is good camaraderie amongst the regulars and it would be super to see more teams involved*

As for our other Captains, please do confirm if you are re-entering and again PLEASE , PLEASE , PLEASE spread the word about this ... easy going, once a month - fun - Teams event that has been going for all these many years.

As said, I would love to get us up to 24 Teams. An A,B &C with 8 teams per section. Get the event to a 7 month event before we roll it out again and introduce some "NEW" people to playing TEAMS

So folks - you all know people out there who might have said they want to give TEAMS a go, and these people know people, and before you know it they're at the no. of 4 and can enter.

*Please spread the word and tell them they can whatsapp me and I'll explain everything.*

January isn't all that far away you know and would need to get out Fixtures by say the 2nd / 3rd of Jan.

. . . so "yes" do need the communication flowing.

Regards,

**Duncan Craggs**

Administrator 084-317-9825



## TEAMS - EDITION 22 EVENT

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Bridge can take on many shapes and sizes. There's rubber bridge, duplicate pairs, and then there's "TEAMS"

So if you've ever thought about giving "Teams" a try "OR" you once read somewhere how, "Teams is the purest form of the game", well whoever wrote that was right, it is !!

Maybe you're a little scared that the standard of those who play "Teams" is a little high. Well know this is not necessarily the case with "this" little event we're advertising & that this is the perfect launching place for your 1st ever Teams experience. With this little SABF event catering for bridge players, of entry level, advanced or very advanced.

So this competition is "**FREE**", that's right, no entry fee and no match fees either. It has been running for 11 years already and is always looking for new players and looking to grow. It's social, easy going and does offer complete flexibility if you ever have to reschedule a match -PLUS- with it being played on BBO is convenient and gets played in the relaxed environment of your own home.

All you need is 3 like minded friends who feel the same way, who are able to give up one Thursday night a month, (with this being .. (officially) as per the fixtures, as the 2nd Thursday each month), but again as said, if need be, can get rescheduled.

If this sounds like "YOU" and you've been wanting to give TEAMS a go? Then simply email and/or whatsapp the name provided below :

***Duncan Craggs***

Once A Month BBO Teams

084-317-9825 (whatsapp's or phonecalls)

duncanacraggs@gmail.com

And if you have questions, no problem , ask away and I'll happily answer them.





## The South African Bridge Federation 73th National Congress, Cape Town 2026

Chief TD: Waleed El Menyawi



National Teams: Sunday 12 April - Thursday 16 April  
Registration: Sunday 12 April @ 08h30  
Playing Times: Starts Sunday 12th @ 09h00  
Entry fee: R5000 (\$280) per Team

National Pairs: Friday 17 April – Sunday 19 April  
Playing Times: Starts Friday 16 @ 09h00 - Ends Sunday 19 @ 18h00  
Entry fee: R2000 (\$120) per Pair

Mixed pairs: Thursday 16 April  
Playing times: Starts 09h00 – ends 18h00

Venue: Kelvin Grove, Newlands Cape Town

Many claim that Cape Town is the most beautiful city in the world. But apart from its magnificent setting and rich historical background, it offers warm weather, beautiful beaches, outstanding restaurants and food, world class hotels and golf courses, wonderful vineyards and much more. Preferential rates for accommodation near the venue will be available later. For more information contact Jocelyn Ashberg at [ashberg@iafrica.com](mailto:ashberg@iafrica.com)

