



The Links Bridge Club

Making the game better for all



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Courtesy Pens

Please don't remove the Pens from the Club. They are there for your convenience and use at the Club.



Indigenous Tree Project

Please support our indigenous tree Project by buying a South African tree to be planted at The Links.

Speak to Pierre.



Message from our Chairman

Long-standing members of the JBC and Hillbrow Bridge Clubs will be aware that, at the time of the establishment of the facilities at the Links, it was the JBC and Hillbrow (together with the Gauteng Bridge Union and the SABF) who were financially involved in getting the show on the road. The four bodies between them resolved to create a separate entity, called Bridge South Africa, to act as the custodian of the property and facilities at the Links.

Each body was represented on Bridge SA in view of their financial involvement.

In order to fund Bridge SA it was decided by the powers-that-be at the time to start a Saturday afternoon competition and this brought about the "birth" of the Links Bridge Club. Both Pierre du Toit and Alan Dawson have done an outstanding job of the Saturday afternoon bridge and it is to them that our thanks are due for the continued well-being and satisfactory state of our finances. Bridge SA has been able to repay their initial loans and, as a result, a new constitution was drafted and adopted for Bridge SA early in August this year.

The Bridge SA committee comprises two representatives from each of the JBC and the Links, one from the Hillbrow Bridge Club and one appointed by the "private" bridge clubs using the facilities at the Links. In addition, James Grant is a non-voting member of the Committee.

Happily, the finances of Bridge SA are in a healthy state and recently you will have noticed a fair amount of activity at the Club with various areas being renovated, maintained or improved. The paving from the parking area has been repaired as it was becoming hazardous in certain places; handrails have been provided at the back entrance as well as down the stairs to the storeroom and a lock-up facility has been built to store the playing cards so generously sponsored by Bidvest Bank. In addition, we are giving consideration to redecorating the Grand Slam Wall as well as to acquiring a card printer and a new dealing machine. The funds for all of these improvements are already in place and, hopefully, during the course of the next few months we will be able to go ahead with the changes envisaged.

It is at all times our desire to provide our members with the best in facilities and an enjoyable environment in which to play their bridge. Hopefully we are well on the way to achieving our mission.

Geoff Ossip



Hamlet watching a dispute at the table

What a piece of work is a bridge player, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals—and yet, the game confounds me

With apologies to Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2 talking to Rosencrantz





Wednesday Afternoon Bridge

There are now four
graded sections on a
Wednesday afternoon.
All are welcome. Please
be seated by 1.45pm.



Advertise on the Traveling Score Sheets

Anyone wanting to place
an advert on the
Personal and/or
Traveling Score Sheets,
Please see Pierre.



Waste Paper Collection

Please bring your waste
paper from home, and
deposit it in the Mondri
bin located in the
Carpark. We will save 17
trees for every ton
recovered, AND earn
R200 for the Links.

Please help your Club and
our Trees.



Sunday Afternoon Bridge

There is bridge every
Sunday at The Links
commencing at 3.15pm.
Results available a couple
of minutes after play ends.
All are welcome.

In January 2010 your club will be 10 years old. To celebrate the occasion we intend holding a Bridge Fair. Bridge in the morning and afternoon with lunches and stalls in our lovely gardens. Please contact us should you wish to be involved.

Some notable dates in our history

Jan 98	Clubs agree to search for premises
Apr-98	Lease agreed with Council for 25 years with 15 year option
Jan-99	First building extension commenced
Jun-99	First Tourney played at The Links 9 Tables
Jan-00	The Links official opening and Saturday tournaments started
Dec-02	Second building extension started
Jun-03	SABF Congress held at The Links
May-04	Swipe card system introduced
Mar-05	First live scoring
Oct-06	Bridge mates introduced
Jun-07	96 Tables play in World Wide Sims
Nov-08	Bidvest Bank support our open day

Cards for Hospice

One of our players recently reported that we should buy our playing cards from Hospice as they were so cheap. We did not have the heart to tell her that we donate all our old cards to Hospice.

Four Digit's Required for Check-in Computer

When checking-in on the computer with your card, please remember that a person's bridge ID Number MUST have 4 digits. If the player has a very low number ie. 120 please remember to insert a zero in front of the number when entering it on the check-in computer.

SABF National Teams Event

Bloemfontein – 29th October to 1st November 2009

The Links will be represented by two teams selected from their positions
on the pair's ladder at the end of July

A Team:

Bernard Donde & Robert Stephens
Diana Balkin & Paul Reynolds

B Team:

Bruce Wang & Henry Wu
Julius Butkow & Robert Solomon

We wish them every success and hope they return with the trophy.

Ode to John

*There once was a member named John
who thought he was never wrong.
But he's a noisy dude
and so incredibly rude
that the result is that he is long gone...*

Who can you Drub at Rummikub®?

Who can you drub at Rummikub®?

If you think you've got talent with rummy tiles, pit yourself against the pros and win great prizes in South Africa's first ever competitive Rummikub® tournament!

Where?

The Links Bridge Club, 147 10th Avenue, Linksfeld, Johannesburg

Map : <http://www.gbu.co.za/map/gbumap.html>

When?

Sunday 18 October 2009 from 09:15-16:00 (approximately).

How much?

Your entrance fee of R150-00 includes lunch, tea and coffee and snacks.

R120-00 for seniors over 60, students, and all entrance fees received by 15 September 2009. To register and for more info, email rummikub.sa@gmail.com and join our Rummikub Tournament South Africa - 18 Oct 09 group on Facebook

WHAT is RUMMIKUB®?



Find out how to play here : [Rules of Rummikub®](#)

You can also [play Rummikub® online](#)



Our Thanks to Bidvest



The Foreign Exchange Specialists

Great news for our Club is the additional sponsorship received from Bidvest Bank. Mr Alan Salamon the Managing Director has been most generous, and in addition to the screens that show seating and results they have now supplied us with playing cards and complimentary pens. This is a most generous donation and will ensure our playing requirements over the next few years permitting us to direct our resources to improving the facilities at the Club.

Thank you Alan.

Alan Salamon

Alerting Doubles

The rules for alerting of doubles changed in August 2006. Except for those doubles with highly unusual or unexpected meanings, doubles do not require an Alert. Some examples;

1S-P-4C (splinter bid)-Dbl - If this double asks for the lead of any suit other than clubs, an Alert is required.

1H-Dbl or 1D-P-1S-Dbl - If either double is penalty or lead directing only, an Alert is required.

3H-Dbl or 3H-P-P-Dbl - If either double is penalty, an Alert is required

The system is complex and becomes more difficult as the auction progresses so be careful.

SABF Convention Control Regulations, Opening 1NT with a Singleton

The SABF Convention Control regulations place restrictions on No Trump opening bids. An extensive search of the Internet and regulations of major bridge playing countries found NO similar requirements. Should we be limited by what many perceive to be an obsolete set of regulations. We asked Craig Gower what he thought



All the examples below may contain a singleton in Partner's main suit.

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 1S—1NT | 2. 1H—1S
2C—2NT | 3. 1D—1H
3D—3NT | 4. 1H—2D
2H—3C
3NT |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|

We bid NT with singletons in many auctions. We ask for aces with 4NT, and have a singleton. It's acceptable to open 2NT with a singleton. Some hands may be forced to rebid 1NT with a singleton. 1NT is a sensible option on

S AKJ
H K 1D—1H
D JXXXX 1NT
C Qxxx

We often open 1NT with a small doubleton, but a bare K would be a better stopper (opponents may lead from the Ace) or better support for partner's long suit. I'm not proposing that 1NT be opened on all hands containing a singleton, but only where sensible. We do not legislate against bad bids, so why stop players making reasonable practical calls? I guess the next debate will be "what about opening 1NT with a void?"

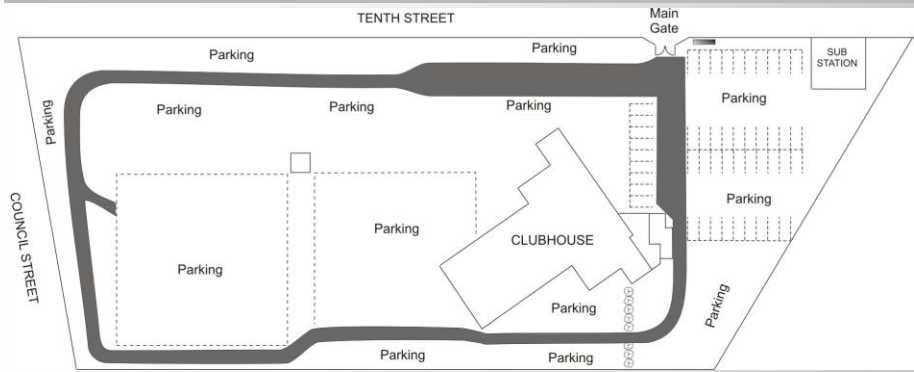
FOOD FOR THOUGHT!



Special thanks to Jeanette Mathews & Harry Axelrod. Everyone will agree that the gardens at The Links look beautiful.



Emergency Roadway



Players are requested to keep the shaded area of roadway open at all times. This will ensure that everybody can get to these vehicles and leave in an emergency, and allow access for rescue services if required.



BIDVest BANK Rennie's Foreign Exchange
The Foreign Exchange Specialists

How True: The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table.