



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

Hi all bridge players!

I trust everyone is keeping well and warm. Winter does appear to have well and truly started with cold mornings and even colder evenings starting about 4pm.

Our GBU AGM held live on Saturday 14th May was well attended by most interested parties. Lively discussion centred around BBO and the startup of face-to-face bridge. There is no doubt that BBO has become an important feature of many of our GBU players' lives with competitions readily available, casual games and many friendly team games organised. There is face-to-face bridge happening in our Gauteng area but only on a small scale. It would appear that the convenience of BBO rather than a fear of Covid is the factor stopping a mass return to live bridge. However BBO

competitions themselves have not been as well supported as last year but The Links BBO events continue to flourish, especially those where a robot may be engaged if one does not have a partner. It was agreed that while we are in winter perhaps best to leave actively promoting live events until after September 1st and also the threat of a possible serious 5th Covid wave would be known. The current GBU Committee was re-elected - Deirdre Ingersent, Chair; James Grant, Secretary; Tor Meyer, Treasurer; and committee members Jackie Solovei, and Bernard Donde who was co-opted onto the committee earlier in the year.

A reminder please if you are either playing live bridge at any of our Gauteng Clubs or playing The Links organized BBO events subscription fees to SABF and GBU need to be paid. SABF is R100 and GBU R25 for a whole year so terrific value for money. Both amounts are payable to the GBU bank account NEDBANK Account Number 1756013144.

Lastly please contact me if you have any comments about the Newsletter (what you would like to read about) or news about any of our members or just to chat!

Yours in bridge,



Deirdre Ingersent



THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

One of the most enjoyable aspects of bridge is bidding a hand well to a great contract, and then playing it accurately. In golfing terms, it would be like hitting a beautiful drive, then an excellent 2nd close to the pin, and then holing the putt for a birdie.

Dir: West
Vul: None

♠ K73	♠ 854
♥ AJ7	♥ KQ93
♦ K108432	♦ J975
♣ A	♣ 75
♠ 96	♠ AQJ102
♥ 1062	♥ 854
♦ 6	♦ AQ
♣ KQ109843	♣ J62

South	West	North	East
	3♣	3♦	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♦	P
5NT	P	7♠	All Pass
Opening Lead: K♣			

Bidding:

Over north's 3D overall south's 3S was forward-going and forcing. 4C was a control bid agreeing spades, as were 4D and 4H. 4NT was Keycard Blackwood (for spades) and 5D showed 0 or 3 key cards. 5NT asked for kings and north made an excellent decision to jump to 7 spades on the basis of the long diamond suit; with south having shown the diamond ace with the 4D control bid, he expected the suit to produce five or six tricks.

Play:

Declarer won the opening lead and saw that the contract would be easy if diamonds broke 3-2, or if a defender had the singleton jack. The question was whether something could be done if the diamonds were 4-1 (without a singleton jack)?

Accordingly, declarer drew two only rounds of trumps with the A-Q (leaving the trump king in dummy) and then cashed the A-Q of diamonds. They did break 4-1, but luckily the hand with the singleton diamond had no more trumps, so he now ruffed a club, cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in hand. He drew the last trump, crossed to the table with the heart ace, and cashed

the two winning diamonds. The thirteen tricks were – five spades in hand, heart ace, three top diamonds, club ace, club ruff in dummy, and the last two established diamonds.

What, you may ask, if the third diamond was ruffed? The answer is that if the diamonds were 4-1 you were not making the hand anyway if you drew all the trumps. There's only one entry in dummy to set up the diamonds, so you cannot get back there. On top of this, even if you had an extra entry, there would only be twelve tricks. So, the 'safe play', as it were, was to test the diamonds after only two rounds of trumps.

About the Author:

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He teaches all levels, these days on Zoom – beginner, intermediate, advanced and Workshops. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons, contact him on jeffshirl@telkomsa.net, or call him on 082 551 2526.



MEDWIN/BERKOWITZ TEAMS

Report by **Deirdre Ingersent**

Sadly this face-to-face event was not well supported by Gauteng players this year. Even our regular teams from past years did not enter.

However with both James Grant and Deirdre Ingersent firmly behind promoting live bridge it was agreed with the 4 teams we had, (2 Medwin standard and 2 Berkowitz), we would play a one day match comprising 56 boards.

Accordingly in the Medwin Section the Eber team (Neville Eber, Val Bloom, Hennie Fick, Bernard Scop) beat the Grant team (James Grant, Larry Chemaly, Craig Gower, Nicky Bateman) 168 - 71. In the Berkowitz Section the Van Vught team (Lex Van Vught, Joy Rothenberg, Sam Trocki, Ian Katz, Harold Wilensky) beat the Ingersent team (Deirdre Ingersent, Gavin Kreuter, Nathan Herscovitz, Duncan Craggs) 160 - 96. Congratulations to the Winners and good luck when you play the Inter-Provincial Event scheduled for online later in the year.

Interesting comments heard during the day:

Actually quite cool to socialise

Online bridge is great - no need to dress up or get the car out.

If you had decided to do this online it would have had a far better entry. 95% love online stuff compared to a mere 5% wanting live bridge.

Fancy having to count the cards and arrange in suits.

I had forgotten how to lay out the dummy. Is it trumps on left or right?

All comments we the bridge administrators have to bear in mind . . . But as a last word those of us who played found it an enjoyable day of bridge.

And as always thanks to Robert Stephens for hosting this event. He is certainly an excellent organiser with much attention paid to even small details.



SID'S QUIZ

by Sid Ismail

Event: 2001 Bermuda Bowl. I watched the exciting final between Norway and USA2 on BBO live Vugraph.

QUIZ:

<p>♠ Q87 ♥ AJ7 ♦ K43 ♣ 7643</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table> <p>♠ A943 ♥ Q108 ♦ AQ65 ♣ A10</p>	N		W	E		S	<p>You are vulnerable and there is a pass from your RHO. The bidding is swift: 1NT - 2NT - 3NT by you. The lead is the ♦10 (lower of touching honours) and you win with the ace in hand.</p> <p>What do you play at trick 2?</p>
N							
W	E						
	S						

About the Author:

Sid Ismail runs pairs tournaments on BBO every Wednesday and Friday at 14h00. For more information, contact him on 082 411 9900 or visit www.elsid.co.za. SABF Masterpoints can be earned!



THE BIG SWING

Submitted by **Deirdre Ingersent**

I was looking through old bridge stuff and came across this short piece which happened at the 2017 National Bridge Congress with two top teams involved. I immediately thought at my average club level would we have been brave enough to do this! The result is definitely worth thinking about!

Dir: South
Vul: E/W

♠ AQJ93
♥ 10
♦ Q3
♣ A10875

♠ 10642
♥ J432
♦ AK1094
♣

♠
♥ AK87
♦ 87652
♣ J943

♠ K875
♥ Q965
♦ J
♣ KQ62

In the Open Room the bidding went:

South	West	North	East
1♣	X	1♠	2♣*
2♠	P	4♠	X**
P	5♦	X	All Pass

* Showing the red suits

** Say something partner, anything!

The play here was straightforward and the contract made for +750, a good result. In the other room their partners were allowed to play, almost unchallenged, a 4S contract which made +420 thus giving this team a total of +1170 which translates into 15 imps!

Many hands I have noted on BBO seem to be distributional so maybe this situation occurs more than one realises!



GAME OF WAR!

Submitted by **Sharon Lang**

My life's path has been highlighted by this fascinating game. No doubt those who read this article will have vivid memories of the highs and the lows of their bridge history. My bridge partner and mentor

of many years back was Hymie Osie. He would regale me with numerous bridge anecdotes which dated back to before I was born. He remembered every card played.

During our bridge post mortems, I would defend my decisions by saying to him “What if?”

His classic response was “Sharon, if my grandmother had wheels, she would have been a bus.”

Here is a hand which I played some months ago which is a good example of strategic defence.

	N		W	N	E	S
7 D	♠ A83 ♥ AK107 ♦ Q10 ♣ KJ75		♠ 42 ♥ ♦ K8643 ♣ Q98643		♠ J109 ♥ QJ98642 ♦ A52 ♣	
	S					
	♠ KQ765 ♥ 53 ♦ J97 ♣ A102					
					4♠ S	NS: 0 EW: 0

North’s opening bid showed 16+ points (Precision system). The lead was the 4 of Diamonds.

Obviously West could not lead partner’s suit with a void in hearts. Declarer surveyed the dummy and it appeared to be the right contract. East took the Ace of Diamonds and must return a heart. Which one should East return?

The correct card is the 2 of hearts which is a suit preference signal. This signal requests West to pay back a Club. West trumped and dutifully returned a Club. When the cross-trumping storm is over, defenders can set the contract which seemed unassailable.

If East/West mis-defend, South can make the contract. Clearly defending requires you to be focused. Amazing how defenders with minimal high card points can win the war.



THE FINER POINTS OF SLAM BIDDING FOR AVERAGE CLUB PLAYERS

Researched by **Deirdre Ingersent**

When the combined partnership holds 33 or more high card points, slams are not difficult to arrive at successfully. However the top players find slams when the point count is far lower. They take into account the factors of distribution and fit. So where key cards are located is often more important than how many points or aces you hold. This is especially true when the most important asset of a hand is its distributional strength.

FOR EXAMPLE

YOUR HAND	PARTNER A	PARTNER B
♠ AKQ654	♠ J987	♠ J987
♥ AQ654	♥ K7	♥ 107
♦ K5	♦ 876	♦ 876
♣ -	♣ 9876	♣ K987

Opening with 2C as a strong bid in Combination A the bidding would proceed:

You	Partner
2C	2D
2S	3S
4H	5H
6S	PASS

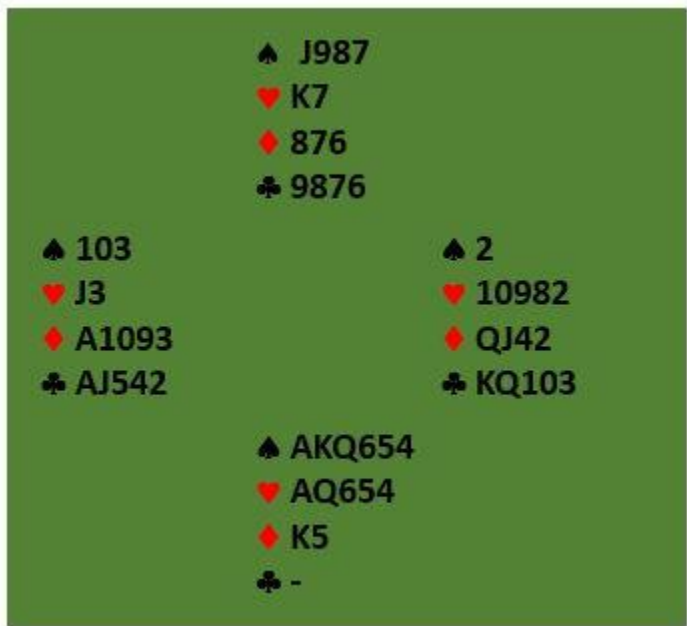
In Combination B the bidding would be like this:

You	Partner
2C	2D
2S	3S
4H	4S
PASS	

Although the opener (you in the example) holds only 18 high card points a modest kind of fit in either hearts or spades will give the partnership a game. Opening 2C is therefore justified. In Combination A the K hearts is an invaluable card in making the hand extremely strong. In Combination B, two small

hearts and the K clubs are not good. K clubs is of no benefit. Therefore it is right to stop in just a game.

Full layout of hands in Combination A:

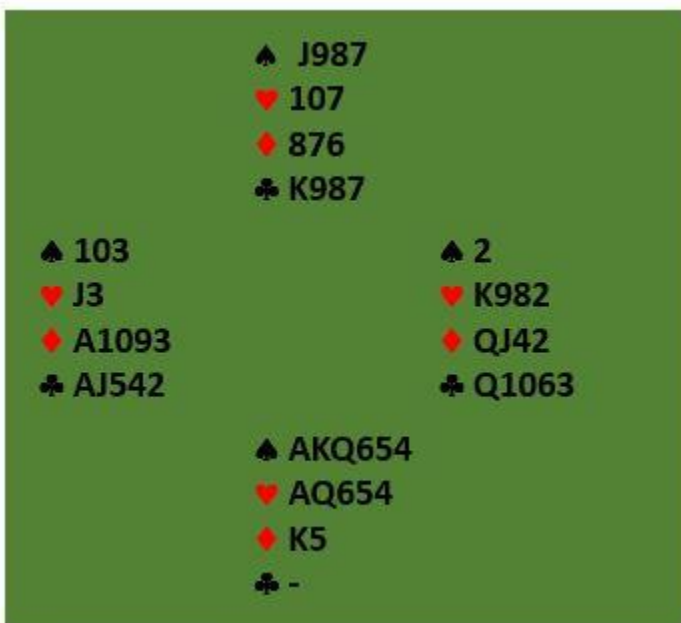


Contract: 6 Spades by South

Opening Lead: 3 Spades

A normal trump break and a 4-2 heart split are all that is needed for the small slam to succeed and all done with a combined partnership holding of 22 high card points.

In combination B the hands were as follows:



Contract: 4 Spades by South

Opening Lead: 3 Spades

A slam is not possible here, although the point count for both hands combined is 22, the same as in Combination A. Much the best option for the partnership to stop in game.

The moral of the story - probably very difficult for us average club players to do. However if looking for a slam with distributional hands, look for fits in side suits and the location of key cards.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

	♠ Q87 ♥ AJ7 ♦ K43 ♣ 7643		<p>Low Stansby, for USA2, won the ♦J lead in hand, and promptly advanced a spade. Tor Helness took the spade king third time round, and found a club switch to Geir's king but Low ducked this. Low takes the next club with the ace, as Tor unblocks the ♣Q. After cashing the 13th spade and the diamonds, Geir gets endplayed with the club, to concede the 9th trick to dummy's hearts. +600.</p> <p>In the other room Glenn Grøtheim (the problem) wins the ♦10 lead, and runs the ♥10. A club shift now cooks declarer's goose.</p>
♠ K52 ♥ 43 ♦ J10987 ♣ Q52	N W E S	♠ J106 ♥ K9652 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ98	
♠ A943 ♥ Q108 ♦ AQ65 ♣ A10			
<p>Net result: +600 +100 = +700 to USA2. +12 IMPs.</p>			

For the record, USA2 won 286 – 265.

