

## From the Chair

I hope, as Autumn is arriving with chillier mornings and evenings and the days are getting shorter, that our GBU members are well and life for them is getting back to normal. While I was out shopping recently I met a lady who had always played at The Links Saturday Afternoon Club but not returned since, and she was surprised to hear that players were back. I said to her for a long time now, and she replied "Oh I have made other arrangements for Saturdays." I hope this lady and others who have done similar reconsider and put live bridge high on their To Do list. The various clubs need you! Nothing beats face to face bridge.

Next another appeal for all members to pay their SABF and GBU affiliation fees. It is a mere R250 for a whole year and we need this money to keep our associations in funds. Not a lot for the enjoyment we provide. It can be paid through your live club, or if you are a bbo player only, direct to the GBU. Contact either **Deirdre** on **082 4304140** or **Tor Meyer** on **084 5050115** if you need help with this.

Mentioning our names, brings me to the fact that our entire GBU Committee was re-elected at our recent AGM held on Saturday March 11th. Also two new people joined the Committee - Joel Harris, who will be the Events Organiser, and Devan Chetty, who will handle IT matters. As they are both younger than those currently serving (and will considerably lower the Committee's average age), this can only help the GBU Committee serve the best interests of our members. I hope the poor turn out signals that we are basically going along OK and not that apathy is ruling. Two areas I feel have been neglected are the GBU website and the introduction of new younger members to the game of bridge. Bridge is not happening in schools and sadly I cannot see this situation altering too much in the near future. On a positive note, the GBU website can be attended to!

A last thought - keep playing bridge as it helps with many facets of ageing!

Yours in bridge,  
**Deirdre Ingersent**

Now all the **SA Trials** have been completed more **CONGRATULATIONS** are due to Gauteng players who made the cut!

In the **Mixed Teams Trials**, which attracted an initial entry of 9 teams, a team captained by Lex Van Vught has reached the Zonals. The Gauteng players are Lex, Joy Rothenberg, Craig Gower and Rita Gawron. A special mention must be made of Joy who has reached that age where your bridge is for free! (SABF and GBU subscriptions and table money at certain clubs are sponsored) What an achievement to announce to the world that your bridge is of a standard to have attained this honour!

In the **Senior Trials** the winning team here contained James Grant and Larry Chemaly. Well done gentlemen.

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## My Stayman Contention

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by Roy Danilowitz (Johannesburg)

March 2023

***There once was a player named Sam,  
Who devised a most practical plan.  
He would ask for a major  
With a two Club engager,  
And that's how we now have Stayman.***

- Spencer

It is my strong contention that the 2 Club Standard Stayman Conventional response to a No Trump opening or overcall bid should always **guarantee the holding of a 4-card major**, as I intend to establish that greater opportunities would be forthcoming therefrom. For the following demonstrations, I will refer to the recommended approach as "MG" (Major Guarantee), as opposed to "NG" (No major Guarantee), which most players are utilising these days.

A typical illustration would be when a 1NT opener holds a 4-4-2-3 distribution, and a responder's distribution is 4-3-2-4, then a likely auction using the NG approach would proceed as 1NT-P-2C-P-2H-P-2NT or 3NT and a 4-4 Spade fit would be missed. I am aware that there are methods of overcoming this occurrence, however, if the MG method were utilised, the last bid would certainly have been 3S or 4S.

Another beneficial example of using the MG method would be when a responder holds both majors with length in at least one. In this case, using the NG approach with Jacoby Transfer bids, the bidding sequence would most likely proceed as INT-P-2H-P-2S-P-3H disclosing a possible 5<sup>+</sup>-4 or 5<sup>+</sup>-5<sup>+</sup> major distribution. However, using the MG approach, this sequence of bids would unmistakably reveal a forcing 5<sup>+</sup>-5<sup>+</sup> major distribution, as no 4-card major had been guaranteed. Thus, a sequence of 1NT-P-2C-P-2D-P-2H would reveal an unmistakable 5<sup>+</sup>-4 major distribution. Additionally, with a weak 5-5-2-1 holding, the following MG bidding sequence of 1NT-P-2D-P-2H-P-2S would be defined as non-forcing, potentially permitting the contract to be played at the very low level of two Spades.

Furthermore, using the MG method, 2NT (invitational) and 3NT responses to a 1NT opening bid would deny a 4-card major. This, however, would nullify the popular conventional use of Minor Suit Transfers, but to no avail as solutions therefore are exemplified in the next paragraph. There are a couple of reasons why minor suits are investigated after NT opening bids. One is to sign off with a weak hand in a long minor suit, and another is to assess whether to play strong hands in a minor suit fit. Invariably, a partnership holding strong balanced hands will only attain 11 tricks when playing in a NT contract, whereas playing the same hands in a suit contract with a 4-4 trump fit, 12 tricks can be attained by taking 5 tricks with the trump suit.

An excellent solution for weak hands with long minor suits is to jump to a non-forcing 3-level in the minor suit. Whilst a befitting solution for strong hands holding minor suits, is to use Minor Suit Stayman, which is initiated by an artificial 2 Spades response. This would surely compensate for the loss of Minor Suit Transfers.

Examples:     a) 1NT.P.3C. – weak with a long Club suit  
                  b) 1NT.P.2S.P.2NT.P.3C – strong with a long Club suit  
                  c) INT.P.2C.P.2H.P.3C – strong with 4 Spades and a long Club suit

As a result of a), Puppet Stayman over 1NT opening or overcall bids would now be unavailable, Nevertheless, I do recommend that Puppet Stayman be utilised over 2NT opening bids when holding a 4-card major.

## My Stayman Contention - continued


In this article it is not my intention to go into the details of Minor Suit Stayman, as this would require a whole dissertation, however there is much information available on this topic in bridge books and on numerous websites. Researching this convention will also reveal techniques for checking on major suit stoppers when NT contracts are being considered, and it will enhance slam bidding by revealing 4-4 minor suit fits, which are often overlooked.

### Lenasia Bridge Club Hand

Sid Ismail

“The boys” get together each Sunday afternoon in Lenasia and we have a great time trying to play good bridge. But, more importantly, we look forward to the eats at the halfway stage! Between the pakoras and samosas we would be joking about Zuptagate or tease someone about a hand he misplayed terribly in the first half. All in good fun.

Here is a hand that cropped up a while back, against Hafeez Valley and Aziz, the Maths Professor. My partner Ahmed Patel bid 5♦, in a typical aggressive Lenasia auction. I waited pensively for dummy to show, all I knew was that Ahmed was short in spades, but what else... ?

<b>Bd 4</b> <b>Dealer: West</b> <b>Vul: Both</b>	♠ 7 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ A 10 8 6 5 3	
♠ A K 9 5 4 3 ♥ A Q 5 4 ♦ - ♣ 7 4 2		♠ Q 8 2 ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ 10 9 6 4 ♣ K J 9
	♠ J 10 6 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ A J 8 7 3 2 ♣ Q	



<b>The Bidding:</b>				<b>The Play:</b>				
W	N	E	S	Tr 1:	SA	S7	S2	S6
1S	2C	2S	3D	Tr 2:	HA	H2	H3	H6
4S	5D	X	P	Tr 3:	HQ	HK	H7	H10
P	P							

My mood lifted considerably when the ♥Q made her appearance at trick 3.

**QUIZ: You are booked. How do proceed from here?**

## THE FIVE LEVEL BELONGS TO THE OPPONENTS!

He said that in a strongly competitive auction, it is usually right to stop bidding once the opponents bid to the 5 level.

Firstly, for both sides to be making, or close to making, contracts at the five level, there would have to be some extreme distribution. If one side has an eleven card fit and the other a ten or eleven card fit, perhaps both sides are around the eleven trick mark. Most of the time bidding five over five will simply turn a plus score into a minus.

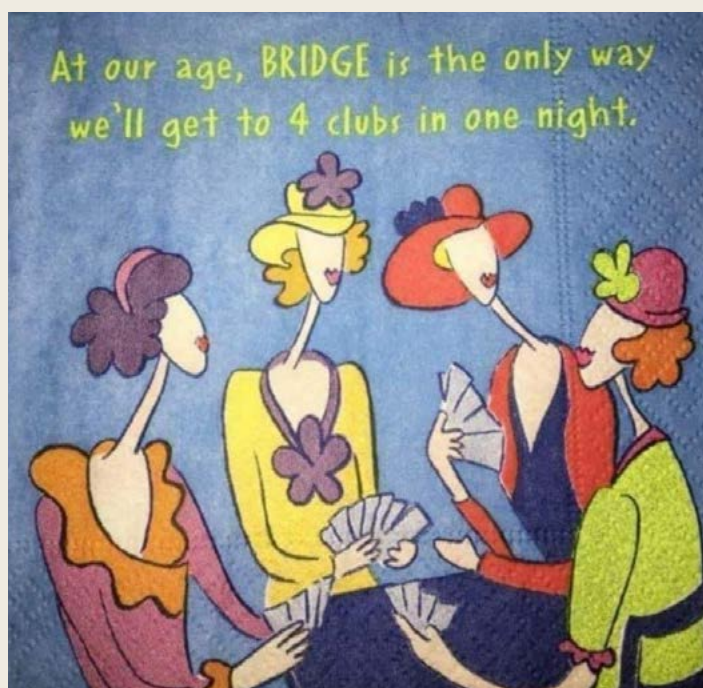
Secondly, when the opposing contract is five of a major, they are on a bit of a hiding to nothing. If they make 10 tricks they are going down. If they make 12 tricks they are missing a slam. Even if they make exactly 11 tricks they are no better off than if they had secured the contract a level lower.

In the case where your side is sacrificing, do not double the opponents at the five level. If they are going down you are probably scoring well anyway. What you do not want to happen is an average score turned into a bad one if they make the eleven tricks doubled!

However when the opponents are sacrificing you do not want to let them play undoubled. You need to double so that the penalty you get is close to - or ideally beats - the value of your own best contract.

Footnote - This last doubling is what the top players do so well!

*Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent*



Ely Culbertson, it is said, single-handedly popularized Contract Bridge. In 1931 he sealed his reputation as the foremost expert on the game when he and his wife, Josephine, defeated Sidney Lenz and Oswald Jaocby in a highly publicized match. He once remarked (perhaps partly tongue-in-cheek) that ‘mathematicians make lousy bridge players’, presumably because they tend to get so involved in the percentages that they fail to see the wood for trees in many situations. Nevertheless, a sound knowledge of the odds and percentages is vital, and every top player is familiar with the more frequent ones. Today’s declarer would have done better had he have known just a little more about the subject.

**South dealer, neither Vul**

**NORTH**

♠ 6542

♥ 102

♦ AK74

♣ 963

**WEST**

♠ QJ109

♥ J96

♦ 9652

♣ 85

**EAST**

♠ 83

♥ A875

♦ J108

♣ KJ107

**SOUTH**

♠ AK7

♥ KQ43

♦ Q3

♣ AQ42

**3NT by South**

**Opening lead: SQ**

Declarer ducked the opening lead and won the continuation. He could count two spades and three diamonds for sure, but the entry situation looked bad. With only one convenient entry to dummy he could not lead hearts twice towards his K-Q, so he tried to develop three tricks in clubs. He started by playing a low cub from hand, which was won by east, who switched to the jack of diamonds. South took the queen and continued with a high heart, which east won to continue diamonds. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the other high diamond, and finessed the queen of clubs. Things were now looking a lot rosier, but when west discarded on the ace of clubs declarer’s hopes were dashed. He finished up with two spades, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs – and a ninth trick was nowhere to be found.

Declarer had to assume that the club finesse was going to work, but the best chance for a ninth trick was to play west for the jack of hearts. If South leads a low heart from hand at trick two, he makes two heart tricks whenever west holds the jack. Later he can finesse the club after cashing the three top diamonds.

As both lines of play need the club finesse, it’s simply a matter of which approach is more likely to get an extra trick. The heart jack will be on the left half the time – a 50% shot, while the clubs will break exactly 3-3 only 36% of the time. So the recommended line is far superior.

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## *In Defence of the Defence (Part 4) - James Grant*

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I promised at the beginning of this narrative to share with you the agreements in defence I believe the very top players in bridge have, but rather than jump straight into it I have wandered down well-trodden paths describing conventions that most of you, but not all, know already. Forgive me if for no better reason than completeness I continue down that road

### North

♠ K107

♥ 54

♦ 1087

♣ KQ43

### East

♠ 63

♥ A8732

♦ 92

♣ A1062

South opens 1S and over his partner's 2S makes a long suit try in clubs. North is happy to raise to game in spades and your partner leads the 7♣. Clearly partner has a singleton and is hoping for a ruff, and you are more than happy to oblige so you win the first trick with the ace and return a club. But wait a minute, let's think about this. When your partner ruffs this trick what question would he ask you if he could? Of course, he wants to know if you have another entry in your hand and where it is. So tell him you have the ♥A by leading back the ♣10. Even with the ♥K this would be the correct card to play and if your partner trusts you he will underlead his ace if he holds that card. With the ace or king of diamonds you would have returned the 2♣.

### North

♠ K107

♥ 54

♦ 1087

♣ KQ43

### West

♠ A54

♥ KJ1086

♦ J6543

♣ 7

### East

♠ 63

♥ A9732

♦ 92

♣ A1062

### South

♠ AQJ98

♥ Q

♦ AKQ

♣ J985

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## *In Defence of the Defence (Part 4) continued*

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The 6 ♣ would send a message to partner that there are no safe returns and he might exit with a trump at this stage. Even when you lead a doubleton and your partner wins and returns the suit expecting you to ruff, watch carefully what card he returns because he is sending you a message.

Finally there is the message sent by the play of an unexpected high card in the middle game, The most beautiful example of this can be found in a book by Terence Reese called "The Expert Game" but a more humble example will suffice.

### **North**

♠ 4

♥ AQ952

♦ AQ1054

♣ A10

### **West**

♠ J1072

♥ J1043

♦ K72

♣ 93

South opened a weak 2S and after discovering South was maximum for his bid North raised to 4S

The opening lead was the J♥ followed by the Q♥, K♥, 6♥. East now switched to the K♣ which was ducked in dummy followed by a small club won by the ace. South now played the A♦ all following then a small diamond ruffed in hand. Now he played a small club towards dummy which West ruffed, East dropping the queen. How should West continue? South is known to have started with six spades, one diamond and at least three clubs and one heart. If the two missing cards are clubs then a heart return would be a disaster as on a finesse it would allow declarer to jettison his losing clubs, but would declarer have finessed the queen at trick one holding a singleton heart? Stranger things have happened, but if you were needing confirmation to play a heart then the Q♣ was it. East wasn't trying to show off by telling you he held all the winning cards in that suit, or that he wanted you to play a club given that you have just ruffed that suit, he was sending you a message that he wants a heart return.

This shouldn't be confused with partner discarding aces in the end game where declarer is cashing out his tricks. Here your partner is also sending you a message which is often quite a rude one.

The full hand

**North**

♠ 4  
♥ AQ952  
♦ AQ1054  
♣ A10

**West**

♠ J1072  
♥ J1043  
♦ K72  
♣ 93

**East**

♠ 96  
♥ K  
♦ J863  
♣ KQJ852

**South**

♠ AKQ853  
♥ 876  
♦ 9  
♣ 764

To be continued....



**MEET THE COMMITTEE**

The current GBU Committee meeting for the first time since their election at the recent GBU AGM. From left to right Tor Meyer (Treasurer) , James Grant ( Secretary), Deirdre Ingersent ( Chair) , Joel Harris ( member), Devan Chetty ( member) and Bernard Donde ( Vice Chair). Absent Jackie Solovei ( member).

**Footnote - Jackie is recovering from a nasty fall which occasioned a bad femur injury and led to a hip replacement operation. It has been a slow recovery so far. Come on Jackie get going again as I am the only lady with all these gents at present!**



# DARLING DAISY'S TIPS FOR BEGINNERS!



1. After you open 1H or 1S and partner responds 1NT denying support for your major, don't rebid your major unless you have a six card suit.

2. With two five card suits - open with the higher ranking suit, respond in the higher ranking suit, and overcall in the higher ranking suit. Do not worry about which is the stronger suit.

You hold

S x	Open 1H, not 1D.
H J10xxx	Respond 1H to an opening 1C bid
D AKQxx	Overcall 1H if the opening bid to your right is 1C
C Kx	

3. It is dangerous to count extra points for short suits or long suits before the bidding starts.

If partner bids your short suit, that **REDUCES**, not **INCREASES**, the value of your hand. If one of your opponents bids your long suit, that **DECREASES**, not **INCREASES**, the value of your hand. If you let the bidding develop, you will see whether your long or short suits are working for or against you.

You hold

S Axxx	What is this hand worth?
H x	If partner opens 1H, it is a MINUS 6 point hand
D Qxxxx	If partner opens 1S, it is a 9 point hand
C xxx	(3 points for the singleton with 4 card support)

If LHO opens 1D and partner overcalls 1 H, the DQ has lost its value and so has the 5th diamond! You are now looking at a MINUS 4 point hand.

**MORAL OF THE STORY** - Be patient with distributional hands until you hear the bidding!

You suspect that trumps will break 4-0 for two reasons: West's emphatic 4S bid showed a distributional hand and East's prompt double. You can ruff 2 spades in dummy but that will be with an honour and East's trumps will be elevated to trick-taking status then. If only dummy had a 4th trump... Can we ruff spades and trump-coup East? Maybe we can ram the clubs through East and still catch his 10-9 with our A-J. Since there is nothing else to try, we cash the ♣A at trick 4 and we ruff a club. Next, a small trump to the king and this exposes the trump situation. We ruff another club and we are relieved that the clubs broke 3-3. Now for the trump coup.

We cash the ♥J then ruff the ♠10 with the ♦5 and we play the ♣10 in this layout –

	♠ - ♥ - ♦ Q ♣ 10 8 6	
♠ K 9 5 ♥ 5 ♦ - ♣ -	N W E S	♠ Q ♥ - ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ -
	♠ J ♥ - ♦ A J 8 ♣ -	

- If East discards his last spade on the club play, we can ruff or discard, and the last 3 tricks will be won by the Q - A - J.
- If East ruffs in with the 9 or 10, as he did, we overruff, ruff our spade in dummy and we will then be poised with the A-8 over his 10-6.

West: "You doubled, partner?"

North: "I knew my clubs would prove useful"

East: "Well played!"

**By Sid Ismail.** *Online lessons can be arranged!*  
 Call me for options. **WhatsApp (082) 4119900 OR email me at [elsid480@gmail.com](mailto:elsid480@gmail.com)**



## GOOD HABITS TO INCULCATE!



*I found this article when searching through the many bridge papers I have and thought it would be useful as many players are returning to face to face bridge after online bridge. Furthermore some of these problems have occurred at Benoni Northerns Bridge Club where I regularly TD. We have a mix of playing standards there.*

1. Count your cards face down before sorting to make sure all hands have 13 cards. Place them black, red, black, red and fan them out carefully so all 13 are visible. ( I have often been called for a revoke situation when the player said I never saw that card as it was hidden behind another one!)
2. Decide your bid before you touch the bidding box so you don't give extra information. (A problem with new players or those unused to bidding boxes I find)
3. Place bidding cards sequentially on the table so all bids can be seen and reviewed. **DO NOT PACK AWAY UNTIL THE LEAD HAS BEEN TABLED.**
4. Bid in tempo to avoid giving information, which may result in Law 16 violation. A long pause at your turn and then a pass is suspicious. Partner must wonder if you do hold some good cards!
5. Ask about opponent's bids if alerted and **ONLY** when it is your turn to bid. This rule is not realised by new players I have found.
6. Direct questions to bidder's partner. ( Different to bbo where one alerts one's own bid by typing in an explanation which the opponents can read but not partner)
7. For the first lead, place your card face down on the table and ask your partner if there are any questions. This will avoid leading out of turn or being influenced by partner's question. The important thing here is to table the card **FACE DOWN!** If wrong defender trying to start, no damage is done as it can be returned to your hand without penalty.
8. Play each card in tempo to avoid giving extra information to your opponent or your partner. Definitely important and something to be worked on if a new player.
9. Call the Tournament Director if there is any question about any part of the game and let him or her make any decisions or rulings.. The TD is there to help!

(And yes we do get strange things happen e.g. a missing card once discovered in a player's handbag)

*Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent*

*Attributed to Sid Ismail*



*The Bridge Community is heartened to hear that after severe health problems necessitating hospitalisation and a lengthy stay in a step down facility, Sid has now recovered and hopefully back to live bridge in the not too distant future. We wish him all the best*