

The Chair's Report

A few items this time which I hope will be of interest to our members.

I must apologize for the delay in publishing this edition. I was away for almost a month in England and France. It was interesting talking to fellow bridge players in England and to learn they are also struggling to get their people back to live bridge at the clubs. The same reasons as with us - the convenience of bbo or Real Bridge that it is immediately available to you without the need to get a car out or dress up. Players there stressed the wide number of bridge related activities available to you. You could get online alone without a partner, and join a table or organise a robot to play, practise your play or bidding, watch others play including Vugraphs with top players. In fact a greater variety than at a club. But we keen bridge players know there is no substitute really for the face to face game and the social interaction with others.

Next I must say I wish our S A representatives currently away in Marrakesh the very best of luck and may they benefit from the experience they will gain at a top event and enjoy it all. Speaking to Robert Stephens just before he left he mentioned that our players start at a disadvantage because of their geographical position (bottom of Africa and far away from other continents) that they are unable to play against strong opponents regularly whereas the European based countries are closer and able to travel more easily to find good competition. Anyway, we had more teams qualifying than usual so more players to try out the world bridge arena.

Our Saturday afternoon live bridge at The Links continues to attract more players and even with top players away, there were three sections in play last Saturday. At only R60 per player for a whole afternoon of bridge with a splendid tea to enjoy too, it is good value for money. Everyone who goes

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please try and spread the word to enlarge the sections and perhaps even add another! In its heyday The Links Saturday afternoon was the biggest event of its kind in the world with 6 or 7 regular sections! With ample off road carparking and a generator there will never be problems there with security or loadshedding!

An area I as a Chairman have not succeeded with is attracting youngsters to the game. Times have changed and youngsters are very much into cellphones, computers and gaming. Whereas we had perhaps radio and television for entertainment, many families played card games as well. Not so nowadays. It is not taught in schools (as it is in some European countries) and very few even offer bridge as an extra curricular activity. In England mini bridge is taught in some schools and it has been shown it helps learners with their Maths skills. Bridge in schools has been tried in the past but the sustainability of a scheme has often proved difficult. I would welcome advice about this. With bridge currently seen as a pastime for older people, and indeed the average age would be 70+ in most clubs, we must not let it face extinction.

A last thought - the value of concentration throughout a bridge session. One must concentrate fully and not let the mind wander. What should I make for supper, or even surreptitiously checking one's cellphone, are not recommended. It is so easy to forget a small key thing, e.g. how many trumps are out or in no trumps is that small spot card a winner, and then a surefire contract is not made and a bottom for you and partner is the end result. If playing in a day event or a Congress held over many days then stamina becomes important. Then it is not enough to be at the top of ones game for one session but must be CONSISTENTLY GOOD through the whole event. This is definitely something we average club players struggle with and what sets us apart from top players who rarely have a poor round.

Enough rambling on and food for thought!

Yours in bridge,

Deirdre Ingersent



REPORTBACK ON THE GBU MINI CONGRESS

held on Fri 7th, Sat 8th and Sun 9th July.

The GBU were feeling understandably nervous about this event (especially me!) as the last time I had attempted anything with teams it was a dismal flop attracting only 4 teams in total!

So our Teams Event was over 3 sessions on the first two days. We had 12 teams and decided on a round robin as we had quite a variety in the standard of players. We could only play 7 board matches which is not at all popular with our stronger players as one poor result can give away the whole match! However a happy atmosphere prevailed throughout and many congratulations to the following prizewinners

1st overall VAN VUGHT TEAM (Lex Van Vught, Robert Stephens, Sam Trocki, Joy Rothenberg) They were our Gauteng representatives in the Medwin Section of the S A Inter Provincials.

2nd overall MATISONN TEAM (Jenny Matisonn, Rita Gawron, Harold and Aviva Wilensky) As this team was suitable for the Berkowitz category of the S A Inter Provincials, they were our Gauteng representatives. What a fine achievement for them to finish ahead of 3 teams ranked above them and only able on their CPI and Master Points ranking to play in a Medwin Section of that event.

Accordingly a Runner-Up prize in the Berkowitz Section (for which 8 of our original entry of 12 were eligible) was given to the BERMAN TEAM (Allan and Louise Berman, Norman and May Kennelly)

And so onto our Pairs Event, a full day on Sun 9th July. This attracted an entry of 44 pairs including many players who had not previously supported an event of this kind. I need not have worried about anything! Our Master of Ceremonies, Joel Harris, is flamboyant, outgoing and a pleasure to work with. He had arranged fantastic prizes, including a coffee mug for each Congress entrant. There were many other big prizes and a host of smaller items too. Duncan Craggs was over the moon to be the recipient of a Kindle.

Players were graded A or B according to their known level of play but the tournament was organised using random seating and a movement which meant one played a variety of opposition. This worked well and the following players were awarded cash prizes.

A Grade

1st Nicky Bateman and Tas Nestoridis

2nd Craig Gower and Sharon Izerel

3rd Rob Solomon and Sharon Taitz

B Grade

1st Nathan Herscovitz and Graham Sacks

2nd Duncan Craggs and Andy Theron

3rd Tor Meyer and Mark Eisen

The lunch was amazing with nutritious food to suit every palate and of course we had our usual wonderful morning and afternoon teas.

My grateful thanks are due firstly to Joel Harris for being the Event Co-ordinator and then my whole committee for helping with all the many details which go into organising an event of this kind. Then thanks to Robert Stephens who set up all the movements we used, and Sid Ismail who was our Teams TD and Helen Kruger the Pairs TD. A wonderful day of bridge and camaraderie! Also The Links staff who were cheerful and worked hard for the three days.

P.S. The GBU are hoping to stage another full day Pairs Event nearer the end of the year . . . So watch out for this and keep practising!

SUBMITTED by DEIRDRE INGERSENT

Sid's Quizz - *by Sid Ismail*

"Double-Dummy" = You can look at all 4 hands, play accordingly, but assume best defense.

Dealer: West
Love All

♠ 108743
 ♥ AKJ10852
 ♦ 3
 ♣

♠ AKJ52
 ♥ Q73
 ♦ A7
 ♣ J102

	N	E	
♠	Q6	♥	
♥	KJ8654	♦	
♦	AKQ83	♣	
♣			

♠ 9
 ♥ 964
 ♦ Q1092
 ♣ 97654

8	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
15	N	-	-	3	-
15	S	-	-	2	-
2	E	5	5	-	4
	W	5	6	-	4

W	N	E	S	
1NT	2H	3D*	P	*Forcing
3S	P	5C	P	
P	P			

North leads the ♥A. You ruff.

QUIZ: Try and make 5♣.

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.

West dealer, neither vul

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

West	North	East	South	
	3C	3D	P	
3S	P	4C	P	
4D	P	4H	P	
4NT	P	5D	P	
5NT	P	7S	All pass	Opening lead: CK

Over north's 3D overcall 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.

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.

DARLING DAISY'S TIPS FOR BEGINNERS!

1. KEEP TRUMP CONTROL

This sometimes is one aspect that beginners forget as tutors often say draw trumps first . . . But When you are declarer you do not want to run out of trumps because then you would allow your opponents to get in with their suit(s).

Example No 1

West	East
S AKJ962	S 104
H Void	H 10852
D Q75	D AKJ
C KJ95	C Q1062

As West your contract is 4 spades. North leads a heart which you ruff. If you go to dummy with a diamond and take a losing spade finesse, North will be able to make you ruff again. If trumps are 4-1, you will have none left after drawing trumps - the opponents will run the hearts after they get in with Ace clubs. The answer is just to play A K spades straight away, accepting the possible loss of two trumps and a club.

Example No 2

West	East
S AKJ96	S Q104
H J3	H 1085
D Q75	D AKJ
C KJ9	C Q 1063

A slightly different layout of cards but as declarer one still needs to exercise caution. Once again as West your contract is 4 spades. You ruff the third heart and cash 2 trumps, finding them splitting 4-1. If you draw the last 2 trumps, you will go down if the defender with the Ace clubs has any hearts left. Instead you should knock out the Ace clubs while dummy still has a trump to deal with the fourth round of hearts.

2. PRE-EMPT TO SILENCE THEM!

When you have a weak hand and either a very long suit of your own or a good fit for your partner's suit, you should bid to the limit, or 'pre-empt', straight away. Even if you go down, you will probably stop the opponents from getting a good score.

You should open 3 spades

S AQJ8752
H 4
D 84
C 752

S 5
H 4
D 842
C AKJ98752

You should open 4 clubs

S 5
H Q10742
D 84
C KJ987

If partner opens in hearts, you should jump to 4 hearts. Pre-empting forces the opponents to bid (if they want to) at a high level. Sometimes they will guess wrong.

3. WATCH WHAT HAS GONE

It is surprising the number of good club standard players who do not do this! Any tutor will tell you that watching closely the cards played and keeping track of all cards is crucial. Every deal starts with 52 cards, 13 in each player's hand. Basic stuff! If you watch the cards properly as they are played, you will know which have gone and which remain. The more cards and tricks that have gone, the easier it is to deduce what cards a player has left.

A particular thing to watch out for is someone to show out of a suit. Then you know that the other unseen hand has all the remaining cards in the suit.

Most players instinctively know which high cards have gone but on some deals the spot cards are important too.

	D AQ52	
D KJ43		D 76
	D 1098	

Suppose the 10 is led (top of a sequence), covered by the J and Q. You later lead the 9, which holds. You continue with the 8, covered by the King and Ace. East showed out on the third round but it was even more important that you noticed East played the 7 and 6 on the first two rounds leaving North's 5 a winner for the fourth round!

Life
is a game

	
	

Bridge
is serious

Benoni Northerns Bridge Club:

Renowned for being a very friendly club, is staging a full day Open Pairs Tournament in our large hall (pictured below) on SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER.

Registration will be at 9am with play to start at 9.15am.

This whole day will only cost you ***R200 per pair*** and it includes 2 sessions of bridge, morning and afternoon teas and . . . wait for it - lunch as well! Where else could you possibly find such good value for money?

Entries to Nisha Chetty:

083 212 8505

Enquiries also to Nisha or

Deirdre Ingersen:

082 430 4140

Closing date so we can get an idea of numbers is *Saturday 23rd September.*

Benoni players would welcome different opposition so come on and enter!

No passport needed and if you live The Links side of town it is not far to travel!



Our bridge hall at Benoni Northerns Sports Club

Solution

Make ALL your trumps separately.

You ruffed the lead, now spade to hand and ruff another heart. Then play ♦K - ♦A (North cannot ruff) and play the ♥Q, discarding a spade when North covers!

Simply cross-ruff after that. All in all, you make 1 spade + 2 diamonds + 8 trumps!

Tip: Do not let South in (to play trumps).

It would be impossible to make this at the table single-dummy, as first instinct is to draw then set up the diamonds.

Online lessons can be arranged!

Call me for options. WhatsApp (082) 4119900 | email me at elsid480@gmail.com

Sid Ismail

