

From the Chair

So it is a brand New Year 2023 and I think exactly the right time for making New Year Resolutions! I have taken the liberty of making NYR's on your behalf, dear Gauteng bridge players.

Firstly, please pay your subscription fees timeously - that means right now in January. Whether you are only playing online bridge, or only playing live at a club, or a combination of both, subscription fees are payable to both SABF and the GBU. The annual fee is R200 for SABF and R50 for GBU. This can be paid directly into the GBU account Nedbank A/C No. 1756013144 and Tor Meyer, the GBU Treasurer, will ensure the SABF amount goes to its rightful home. Any enquiries please to Tor Meyer via email - tormeyer@worldonline.co.za. If you are playing face to face bridge at a club they will take care of this for you. Please Note - this R250 is a once off payment. It is a very small amount to pay for the enjoyment of this game we all love so much.

Secondly, please reconsider face - to face bridge and return to your club, or start at a new club. It is undoubtedly the best way to enjoy competitive bridge and all those who started up in 2021 did enjoy the experience! Be bothered to get the car out and drive to a club. A few clubs have sadly closed and we don't want to see that happen to more. The Links Saturday afternoons are happening and it is sincerely hoped that if just a few more pairs turn up two sections will be organised. It is going well with a nice friendly atmosphere! Come join and see for yourself! R60 per session in 2023 with tea and coffee and a delicious tea as well.

Thirdly, make this the year you expand your bridge horizons! Dust off your bridge books and look into them, get into bbo and see all the possibilities there are to watch top class bridge, read about the game or practise your own bidding and play out of the cards. There are several tutors available in Gauteng and a new face to face supervised Bridge at The Links on a Thursday morning caters for all levels from those wishing to learn the basics of how to play at a club as regards bidding boxes, alerting etc to intermediate level players who just want help with their game. The Links website is easy to access and a quick glance there is most informative as to what is happening in our area. www.bridgewebs.com/links/

Lastly, thank you to all my regular Newsletter contributors for continuing to write articles. If there is any topic in particular you would like to see in the Newsletter please contact me on 082 4304140 or dingersent51@gmail.com

Yours in bridge and please get face - to - face bridge back in your regular life routine in 2023 so see you at the clubs!

Deirdre Ingersent

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. From the Chair
2. Novices Corner
3. Six Steps to Fixing a Slump...
4. The Bridge Lounge with Jeff Sapire
5. Benoni Northerns Club
6. In Defence of the Defence with James Grant
7. Hands of Note with Sid Ismail
8. Card Reading and Inferences from Bidding
9. A Bit of Bridge Trivia Knowledge!!
10. The Links/JBC Year End Pairs
11. NBC@Ferndale



NOVICES CORNER - Creating Ruffing Opportunities

Bud and Rosebud have not been having much luck in making suit contracts lately. Where most players at their local club were bidding and making game contracts, they always seemed to be down one.

"We were taught that drawing trumps is key," lamented Rosebud, "but it never works for me."

"I agree", sympathised Bud. "And when you don't, 'they' come in and trump your long suit. I'd love to know how to make extra tricks in a suit contract."

The fault, dear Brutus .. (to paraphrase Shakespeare) lies in not making use of trumping opportunities.

Consider this hand played in 4S by Bud(N) and Rosebud, down 1 when most others made the contract. Bud chided Rosebud for not having enough points to go to 4S. They turned to West for suggestions.

	♠ K 9 8 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ A K J 4	
♠ A Q T ♥ J 8 ♦ A J 7 6 3 2 ♣ 7 3	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 5 3 ♥ K Q 6 5 2 ♦ T 9 8 ♣ 8 6 2
	♠ J 7 6 ♥ A T 7 4 3 ♦ K ♣ Q T 9 5	

Bidding			
W	N	E	S
		p	p
p	1♦	1♠	p
p	3♦	3♠	p
4♠	p	p	p

"Well," said KB, "when you study the hand you have 4 winners in clubs, 3 winners in spades and one in diamonds and hearts. Nine tricks. You need to find a tenth trick. This can only be found by using a spade in dummy."

"But how?" Bud blustered, "I need to use them to draw trumps!"

KB explained patiently: "You must look for an opportunity to trump **before** you draw trumps. If you count on drawing trumps dummy's three spades will fall under declarer's five spades. But if you can trump before drawing, then you'll get an extra trick."

KB continued: "I led the 7♣. Win in hand and play 4♦ to the K. A♦ takes the trick, but you can win any return. Get back to hand, and even though your Q♦ is good, play a small ♦ and ruff it in Dummy. Now lead J♠ from dummy, and whatever West plays next you will have your 10 tricks."

"You see, Bud," KB went on, "the only way to find an extra trick is to ruff with the short trump holding. Five spades in hand will always be five spades, but when you ruff in the short holding in dummy, you effectively have six spades!"

lisaxadamson@gmail.com

Suggestions for further exploits of Bud and Rosebud will be welcomed

Six Steps to Fixing a Slump in Your Bridge!

I noticed when I was chatting to fellow players during a recent live event that a few of us (me included!) were suffering from a slump in our bridge, poor results in high 30% or low 40% range far from the 50%+ which we had come to expect would always be our norm!

We agreed that, as with any game or sport, a return to basics is called for.

So here is a checklist of 6 tips to try.

1. As declarer, make sure you are planning at Trick 1 before playing. Are you playing too quickly to the first trick?

a) NO TRUMP CONTRACT

Count your sure winners. Identify the suit(s) you will set up to create more tricks. Think to yourself what will happen if I lose the lead. When I knock out their Ace to set up my suit, what damage will the opps do - what is my stopper situation like in their suit(s)?

b) SUIT CONTRACTS

Look at the tricks you have to lose. For example you are in 4 spades and they have led clubs. You have Jx clubs in dummy and 10 x clubs in hand. You will lose 2 club tricks. You are also missing ace spades. You can't lose another trick or you will be down. In hearts you have AK x opposite Jxx. A plan must be thought out to get rid of that heart loser. Can I set up a side suit? Can I trump a loser in dummy? Will I need a finesse? Can I put the opps in to break a suit for me? And you must think to yourself - Should I draw trumps now or postpone it to do something else first?

2. As defender, make sure you aren't dangerously breaking suits and helping declarer. Unless there is something about the bidding or in dummy which suggests you need to make a dangerous/attacking/risky/aggressive play DON'T DO IT! Are you grabbing aces at the first available opportunity? Don't, aces are meant to capture kings.

3. In the bidding, make sure you don't stop in a part score when you know you belong in game. Your partner shows opening bid values and you have opening bid values - you must not stop in a part score! Make sure every bid you make is forcing until a suitable game contract is reached.

4. DOUBLES

Review the basics of negative doubles and take out doubles (and very important the responses). Auctions involving doubles come up more in a session of bridge than one thinks. Getting these right should improve your scores!

5. CONCENTRATION AND FOCUS

Arrive at the game with a clear head. If you are struggling to sleep or over-medicated it is almost impossible to play your best. Go easy on yourself.

6. Cut down on the conventions/ systems. Try to play a very basic convention card with just the essential agreements. Filling your head with uncomfortable clutter and memory makes it hard to take tricks and remember even what the contract is!

P.S. You probably don't need to follow all 6 tips but if one or two can help you that would be good would it not?

Researched by Deirdre Ingersent

Defense is generally regarded as the most difficult part of bridge. Situations sometimes arise where one may not even be aware of what is going on, as was the case in a recent tournament, where only a couple of defenders got it right. At the table I was watching this is what happened.

South dealer, both vul

NORTH

S 432

H 75

D Q852

C AK76

WEST

S KQ95

H 3

D A764

C Q1083

EAST

S J106

H QJ94

D 9

C J9542

SOUTH

S A87

H AK10862

D KJ103

C -

West

North

East

South

1H

DbI

1NT

P

3H

P

4H

All pass

Opening lead: SK

Declarer took the ace of spades, and with two spade losers and the diamond ace to lose on top, he smoothly played a small diamond towards dummy. West followed low, and that was the end of the defence. Declarer took the queen of diamonds and pitched his two losing spades on the A-K of clubs. Then he played a heart off the table, with east correctly inserting the jack, which was taken by the king. There were no more entries to dummy to play hearts again toward his hand, but declarer was home now. He drew a second trump and conceded two trump tricks and the ace of diamonds.

Of course, what went wrong was that west did not fly in with the ace of diamonds at trick 2 to cash his two winning spades. Looking at all four hands it's very easy, but yet it was too tough for most Wests. Why? Because every west thought it safe to play '2nd hand low' in order not to perhaps allow declarer to establish diamonds easily. But what the defenders should have been

asking themselves is “Why is declarer playing on diamonds at all? He has a sure entry in the club suit, and he must be planning to tackle trumps from the dummy to finesse through partner. So why is he not crossing in the club suit?”

The answer, as we can see, is that declarer is not able to cross in the club suit, so his only chance is to play a diamond up and pray. The more you think about it, the clearer it becomes that declarer must be void in clubs, and that playing low will be fatal, allowing him two vital discards.

If west goes up with the ace of diamonds the contract can be beaten two tricks. After two high spades, a diamond gives east a ruff, and now he exits with the queen of hearts, keeping declarer out of dummy, securing another trump trick for himself.

(Jeff Sapire teaches bridge online and at-the-table: He has small private classes, and also runs various Workshops; for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced players)

Contact Jeff on 082 551256 or email him at jeffsapire@gmail.com



Benoni Northern Bridge Club in action at their recent Christmas Party!

Benoni Northerns Club

Benoni Northerns Bridge Club has been quietly getting on with face - to - face bridge since it was able to get going again after Covid. It is a friendly Club attracting a regular turn out of 8 tables and 10 full tables for the Christmas party! The entry fee is only R25 (R35 for visitors) and for that one gets 24 boards of bridge scored with bridgemates and a cup of tea and a biscuit . . . So it must be the best value ever for an afternoon of entertainment. It is a prompt 1pm start so registration happens from 12.30pm.

Enquiries to Bridie Bullen-Smith on cell number 082 9569982.

If you live on the East side of Joburg it is not far to come and the Club would love for you to come and meet our bunch of friendly regulars!

In Defence of the Defence - James Grant

I promised I would share with you some of the things I have learnt about communicating in defence, but before I get in to that one or two people have told me they play standard count and discards (or whatever) and isn't that all about communication? Well yes it is but it is of a Show and Tell nature where often your partner will have little interest in what you are showing him. What is far more interesting in defence are the Question and Answer conversations.

These questions often begin with the opening lead and I don't pretend that what I write below is the best interpretation of these leads only that the very top players will be using a similar system best suited to their partnership style.

Ace - Many years ago when I lived and played bridge in Mauritius, I recall an ongoing disagreement amongst players there as to whether the correct lead from AK was the ace or the king. The answer is that it doesn't really matter as long as your partner understands the question you are posing. The lead of the ace asks a simple question - do you hold the queen and more rarely, should I continue with this suit? If your partner is leading your bid suit then the question changes to - do you hold the king? Depending on your chosen means of communicating a high card might indicate YES and a low card NO.

King - please give me count.

Queen - here is one of my best kept secrets; the lead of the queen asks partner if he holds the ace, king or jack and given that most readers have already skipped over this article and the rest of you have probably forgotten what you had for breakfast this morning, it is likely to stay one of my best kept secrets.

This is particularly useful if you are trying to avoid being the victim of a Bath coup where Declarer holds

off winning the trick when holding AJx. If instead you had led the king from KQ then you have asked your partner the wrong question as he is now busy giving you count instead of what you really need to know.

The Bath coup incidentally derives its name from the old Roman spa town Aquae Sulis in England which, with the absolute minimum of imagination, the Britons renamed Bath. This was a Whist term so no doubt the Victorians in that town spent their days at the Spa and their evenings playing Whist.

And remember, these cards still pose the same questions when led much later in the defence.

Before wrapping up for the day let me point out that the defender on lead has decided what question to ask before Dummy goes down and might well change his mind when he sees Dummy. For example, if you have led the ace hoping to discover whether your partner holds the queen, then you might be a tad disappointed to find her highness sitting peacefully in Dummy. So the question immediately changes to asking partner for count. Similarly if you have led the queen from KQ only to find the jack in Dummy you will very quickly discover who is sitting with the ace, so again the question reverts to asking partner for count. One final example, should you lead the queen from QJ only to discover the AK in Dummy then the question you are now asking partner is does he have the 10? These are questions you would ask your partner at the table if this was allowed, instead you are using the cards you play to ask and answer these questions instead.

To be continued...

Try these everyday 3 problems and see how you fare -

1.

♠ AKQ62
♥ QJ98
♦ QT6
♣ Q

You are dealer at White v/s Red and you open 1♠.
Pass by lefty and partner responds 2♥. Pass.

QUIZ: Your rebid please?

2.

♠ T8763
♥ 75432
♦
♣ J64

Partner opens 1NT in first seat and RHO doubles
(strong - no agreement by opponents). You decide
that 2 of a major will fare better.

QUIZ: What will be your bid?

3.

4	♠ 7	Dir: W																														
	♥ KQJ973	Vul: Both																														
	♦ A85																															
	♣ AQT																															
♠ Q965	♠ KJ432																															
♥ 5	♥ 2																															
♦ K2	♦ QJ63																															
♣ K98632	♣ J75																															
16	♠ AT8	<table><tr><td>♣♦♥♠</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣♦♥♠					N	-	4	5	-	4	S	-	4	5	-	4	E	1	-	-	1	-	W	1	-	-	1	-
♣♦♥♠																																
N	-			4	5	-	4																									
S	-			4	5	-	4																									
E	1	-	-	1	-																											
W	1	-	-	1	-																											
8	♥ AT864																															
8	♦ T974																															
8	♣ 4																															

You get to 4♥ in two bids.

East leads the ♠2 (3rd/5th). You
win the ace in dummy, draw a
trump, then the ♣A and you
cross-ruff 2 clubs and 2 spades.
You now play the ♦A and another
diamond.

Poor West wins the king but has
only black cards left, thus
offering you a ruff/sluff giving
you +680.

QUIZ: Both sides made
mistakes in the play!
What were they?

By... Sid Ismail (online lessons - elsid@elsid.co.za or
WhatsApp (082) 4119900 to arrange.

Card Reading and Inferences from Bidding

As a declarer we should adopt this regular 5 point routine before even playing a card!



1. Do not play too quickly. Count dummy's points as soon as the hand is laid down. Add your own HCP and deduct from 40 to find out how many points the opponents hold.
2. Before playing a card from dummy, decide which suit you want to play next. If that suit is best played from dummy, win in dummy if you can.
3. Analyse the opening lead. What does it show? What does it deny? Is it a normal lead based on the auction?
4. Count your clearcut winners. In a trump contract also count your losers, suit by suit.
5. Review the bidding. What does the bidding tell you about the location of the missing cards?

These next 8 tips (Inferences from the Bidding) lead on from Point 5 above

1. An opening bidder has about 12 HCP. Though players do open with 11 or occasionally less presume an opening bidder has normal opening points.
2. An opponent who failed to open the bidding generally has less than 12 HCP.
3. An overcaller will usually hold a 5 card suit which includes at least the Ace, King or Queen.
4. A takeout doubler is normally short in the suit doubled.
5. A pre-emptor normally has less than 10 HCP.
6. Where both opponents have bid, consider not only what the stronger hand has but also what the weaker hand needed to bid.
7. When an opponent has shown a freakish 5/5 type of hand remember that the other suits are unlikely to break normally.
8. If one hand has significantly more cards than the other in a certain suit (e.g. as a pre-emptor) the other hand is much more likely to hold length in any of the other suits.

Written up by Deirdre Ingersent based on notes from Hennie Fick

A Bit of Bridge Trivia Knowledge!!

		N craigy52 8 ♠AQJ42 ♥K10 ♦AQ9 ♣1098	
W tec1234 8 ♠K103 ♥A964 ♦KJ1083 ♣6	W N E S 1♦ 1NT Dbl Rdbl Pass 2♣ Dbl Pass Pass 2♠ Pass Pass Dbl Pass Pass Pass	E fatcat4399 7+ ♠985 ♥QJ83 ♦54 ♣AKQJ	
	S lexvan 6+ ♠76 ♥752 ♦762 ♣75432		2♠x North 0 0

Lex Van Vught (bbo name lexvan) sent the above hand to James Grant (SABF President) and Deirdre Ingersent (GBU Chair) asking for it to be included in a Newsletter as he thinks it must be the worst hand ever!

It is known as a Yarborough, named after an English lord who would give odds of 1,000 to 1 against someone coming up with such a hand, which was defined as a hand with no card higher than a Nine! The actual odds are 1,827 to 1, so, as with most bookies, he had a nice edge.

The Links/JBC Year End Pairs

- held on Sunday December 4th 2022 -

Another very successful face - to - face bridge Pairs Event was held at The Links Bridge Club on Sunday December 4th 2022 under the combined The Links/JBC banner. It was organised as always by Rob Stephens showing just how efficient he has become in running either bbo or live events. This was just an afternoon event with a sumptuous tea laid out at the halfway stage. If you have not sampled one of Lotte Sorensen's teas, make it your objective to do so ASAP!

There were 40 pairs entered and prizes were awarded as follows:-

1st of the whole event and A Grade Winners Aras and Alon Apteker

1st B Grade Vivienne Mofsovitz and Mark Eisen (the second time they have won a B Grade event in the last few months!!)

1st C Grade Lauren Dove and Karen Rothbart

It was a fun afternoon of bridge with old friends happy to greet each other in person rather than typing a hello comment on bbo!

Please let's see even more people at our next face to face event scheduled for Sunday February 12th, a red point all day affair staged as a joint The Links/GBU initiative.

Report submitted by Deirdre Ingersent

NBC@Ferndale

Face to face Bridge @ Ferndale opened its doors with all Covid restrictions in place and only to Vaccinated players, on the 19th January 2022, we started with 7 tables and the attendance has increased to +-15 tables on a Wednesday morning.

The Ethos of the club is one of a friendly atmosphere with a measure of Healthy competition.

Most of our players are old friends from NBC, which was Gill Browns club, we have also attracted 8 new players.

Thank you very much to all the Wednesday morning players for the support you have given us during the year, also

thank you very much to our friends from the Links who have supported us through out the year.

We are pleased to invite entries to "Gill Brown Memorial Competition"

This event will take place at the Ferndale Bowls Club

Entries are accepted on our Website Bridge@Orchards or on GBU

Sid's Solutions ... Hands of Note ...

1.

4♣ = splinter raise!

(It is vital to tell partner that you have at most 1 club.)

This bid assists partner enormously. Whether partner cues 4♦ now or goes to 4NT directly, it will get your side to the cold slam. + 980.

<div>2</div>		♠ JT543	Dir: E
		♥ 2	Vul: N-S
		♦ 9854	
		♣ AT8	
♠ 9	♠ AKQ62		
♥ AKT653	♥ QJ98		
♦ AJ	♦ QT6		
♣ 6543	♣ Q		
5	♠ 87		
12	♥ 74		
7	♦ K732		
	♣ KJ972		
		♣♦♥♠	
		N	- - - -
		S	- - - -
		E	- - 6 - 2
		W	- - 6 - 2

2.

2♣ stayman. Over a double, best is to play "systems on", i.e. simply ignore the double - all bids retain their original meanings.

If partner responds 2♦, you will then bid 2♥. Partner will pass or correct to 2♠ with 2-3 in the majors.

As it happens, partner will bid 2♥, so all is well.

<div>14</div>		♠ J54	Dir: E
		♥ Q9	Vul: None
		♦ Q7653	
		♣ T97	
♠ T8763	♠ KQ2		
♥ 75432	♥ AT86		
♦ J64	♦ AJ8		
♣ J64	♣ Q85		
5	♠ A9		
1	♥ KJ		
16	♦ KT942		
18	♣ AK32		
		♣♦♥♠	
		N	1 3 - - 1
		S	1 3 - - -
		E	- - 3 3 -
		W	- - 3 3 -

3.

Errors were -

Defender: When declarer plays diamonds, play the king first time and get out of partner's way. +650 only.

Declarer: Win the spade lead with the ace, and promptly cash the ♦A at trick 2! Before West surmises what you are up to. +680 again.



**STOP
PRESS!**

EARLY NOTIFICATION

for a joint

The Links/GBU Initiative

please diarise

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

for a full day

RED POINT PAIRS EVENT

Lunch will be included!

More details will be available soon with times
and costs and how to enter!