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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

I ask whether Bridge is soon to celebrate its centenary? Well yes and no!

A bridge-like card game was mentioned in a sermon in England as far back as 1529 apparently. It is thought to be either of Turkish or Russian derivation. An early rendition was originally called 'Khedive' when it was first played in the 19th century on the French Riviera, and the name referred to the title of the Turkish viceroy. The Turkish connection is further strengthened by the theory that Bridge got its name from the Galata Bridge spanning the Golden Horn in Istanbul. With this story there were about 14,000 British troops stationed in Istanbul in 1854 and the officers used to cross this bridge every day to play a card game in a coffee house and referred to the card game as bridge in honour of the bridge they had to cross to get to their 'bridge' destination!

Most of us know that the game 'Whist' was the forerunner of bridge and was widely played in England starting in the late 19th century. It was replaced by Bridge Whist which allowed the dealer or his partner to name the trump suit and added the concepts of doubling, redoubling and exposing the dummy hand. Next came Auction Bridge which added the concept of letting the opponents bid to get the privilege of naming the trump suit.

However contract Bridge as we know it was born as a result of a game played on October 31st, 1925, on board a ship called the *Finland*. While waiting to pass through the Panama Canal, Harold S. Vanderbilt and two friends need a fourth person to join a bridge-like game called Plafond. They allowed a lady fellow passenger to join their game. She however proposed many exotic changes based on a card game she said she had learned in China. This irritated Vanderbilt so much that the very next day, during the Panama Canal crossing, he worked out a scoring table for Contract Bridge remarkably similar to the one used today. That night, November 1st, 1925, the very first game of Contract Bridge was played and scored under Vanderbilt's new rules. They kept playing on the *Finland* and enjoyed it so much that on his return to New York Vanderbilt gave copies of his scoring table to his Auction Bridge playing friends and its popularity spread quickly.

Now Contract Bridge is extremely popular and played in every country in the world by many millions of people; Interestingly enough it is the game that most people who don't play cards want to learn!

So Contract Bridge is almost, but not quite, up to its centenary celebrations!

Yours in bridge,

Deirdre Ingersent

REMEMBER THE SA NATIONAL CONGRESS

CAPE TOWN 6th to 13th MARCH
DETAILS and ENTRIES at www.sabf.co.za

FROM THE EDITOR

I thought that I would use this column to re-acquaint you with the members of your 2020 GBU Committee:



Deirdre Ingersent - Chair



James Grant - Secretary



Tor Meyer - Treasurer



Jackie Solovei - Catering



Joe Israeli-Zindel – Special Events



Stephen Rosenberg – Laws and Ethics

All the GBU Committee members serve on a purely voluntary basis, solely for the love of the game; their only objective is to make the game better for all players in the GBU's very populous domain. If you want to bring anything, anything at all that is bridge-related, to our attention, send it to me at stephen@valuersinc.co.za, I'll see that it gets to the right person on the Committee to deal with it.

You'll notice the Poster – “Play nice” – in the bottom right-hand corner of this page. And yes, it also appeared on my page of the previous edition in January. And it may even be there in every issue of *The Bridge Bulletin*. Why? Because this is my theme for this year!

It is such a pity when I hear players say “*I'll never play at such-and-such a club again; everyone's so nasty to you!*” Of course I realize that this is a gross exaggeration; it can't be *everyone*; however, it only needs two or three “nasties” to tar the whole club with a “*nasty*” brush. There are many ways, all within the Laws of Bridge and the rights of the Clubs, to deal with such players, starting with a quiet, private word about their behaviour, and moving to a verbal warning and finally escalating right up to suspension! To me, suspension is a last resort, and a very serious step that should never be undertaken lightly.

Last month, I suggested some New Year Bridge resolutions; here they are again as reminders:

1. *“I don't have to love my partner or my opponents, but I do have to respect them as fellow human-beings!”*
2. *“If I have nothing nice to say, I'll just keep quiet!”*
3. *“Why should I be horrible, when with considerably less effort, I can be, at worst, neutral?”*
4. *“I will remember that bad manners and boorishness are always associated with a lack of class!”*

Stephen Rosenberg



SID'S QUIZ

"WHO'S TO BLAME"



Sid Ismail

This hand was played between Port Elizabeth and Durban in the 2019 SABF Online Interclub Competition. East-West in room 2 subsided in 4S when six is definitely on!



This was the bidding:

QUIZ: How do you apportion the blame between East and West? **First, have a go at it yourself. Then, look at Sid's Solution on Page 6.**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	4♠	P
P	P	P	



Larry Cohen is one of the most prolific writers and eminent teachers in the world of bridge. Here's a recent article from his on-line series, sent in by **Hans Lombard** of Pretoria and entitled

FACIAL GESTURES

"See No Evil, Hear No Evil" is good advice for bridge players. Better might be: "Make no facial gestures, see no facial gestures". Yes, we can all get emotional at times, but if your partner leads a spade and you "make a face", you're saying "Partner, I don't like spades!" Who needs legitimate bridge signals if we can signal attitude with a facial gesture? Need I state the obvious? It is **unethical** to make any gestures during the bidding or play of the hand. This includes, but is not limited to:



1. Smiles, frowns, agitation, glaring at partner, showing frustration, confusion and anger.
2. If your partner forgets to alert your alertable bid, you must keep a poker face. Say nothing, show nothing. To do anything else is unethical. If you do commit such a sin, your partner needs to bend over backwards not to notice or act on the illegally gained information.
3. If you are confused by partner's bidding (*what else is new?* ed.), you can't show it with gestures of puzzlement or frustration.
4. If you don't like your partner's bid or play (*what else is new again?* ed.), don't show it. Keep a poker face.
5. If you are annoyed by partner (or by an opponent), don't show it. Stay cool, calm and collected. I know it isn't easy.
6. Any facial gesture or emotional reaction during the bidding or play of a hand is *streng verboten!* Period!!

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

When I was still pretty new to the game, my father used to discuss the daily bridge column by B J Becker in the old Rand Daily Mail with me. Every now and then he would tell me to analyse the hand double dummy looking at all four hands) and ask me if I wanted to be declarer or defender. Say I wanted to be declarer – I'd play it and he would find some fancy defence to beat me. Then he would ask if I'd like to switch and defend, and promptly make the contract, with me using his defence! "Ok, too good," I'd say as I started to walk away, then, with a wry smile he would say "well, would you like to be declarer again and I'll defend?" Then I knew I was a goner, but what else could I do but try again and wait for the inevitable conclusion? So I'd play it the way he had just done, but this time he would find another defensive move which I'd overlooked, and down I'd go. Today's hand is one of those themes of thrust and parry, and I'd like to dedicate it to my late father, Hymie Sapire, who inspired me in the very early days.

Dir. W Vul. None	♠ AQ83 ♥ A2 ♦ A963 ♣ T32	
♠ KJT962 ♥ — ♦ Q852 ♣ QJ5		♠ — ♥ JT987543 ♦ KT4 ♣ K4
	♠ 754 ♥ KQ6 ♦ J7 ♣ A9876	

Contract: 3NT by South
Opening Lead: ♠J

West opened a weak 2S, and NS then got a bit carried away, finishing up in 3NT. Double dummy, would you like to back declarer or the defenders? With seven top tricks (counting two spade tricks) declarer has to develop clubs for two tricks, but without allowing West the opportunity to gain the lead twice, else he will establish his spades and then run them.

You win the queen of spades and play a club to the six and jack. You take the spade return with the ace and play another club, but when East produces the king you let him hold it. You are home and dry, as the clubs are now running and you have kept West off lead. Hang on though. What if East puts up the king of clubs the first time? No problem, you duck it and

best he can do is switch to a diamond. You take the ace and play ace and another club, and the defence can only get two clubs and two diamonds. Good enough?

Maybe not. Let's go back to the first line where you ducked a club to West. When he continued spades what if East discarded that 'hot potato', the king of clubs? Now you couldn't continue clubs without allowing West the lead again. So maybe ducking a club wasn't such a good idea. What about leading a club at trick two, and when East plays small, putting up the ace? Yes, now you could continue clubs, forcing East to win, take the nond return and give West the next club. 3NT bid and made.

Is it? Perhaps we have overlooked the obvious. If East can discard the ♣K on the second spade to create a club entry for partner, why not do it immediately? Yes, of course, the winning defence is for East to throw away that 'poison' king of clubs at trick one, and now the contract cannot be made. QED.

About the author.

Jeff Sapire is a top-class bridge-player in his own right, having represented South Africa. He teaches bridge at all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. He is also a regular contributor to the Bridge Bulletin. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons, contact him on jeffshirl@telkomsa.net, or 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Jeff Sapire

Jeff will be running the second free GBU seminar of the year

DATE: Saturday 7th March TIME: 1100 – 1230 VENUE: BRIDGE@ORCHARDS

TOPIC: The Negative Double:

Who employs it? What suits does it show? How many points are needed? How does the bidding continue?



Harold Ogust

WHAT'S IN A NAME? "OGUST"

Ogust, named after its founder, American bridge player Harold Ogust, *pictured left*, is a conventional 2NT response to a weak two bid or weak jump overcall. It is an artificial strong bid, showing 15+ points with interest in game. It usually (but not always) shows trump support. Ogust is a forcing bid for one round.

After hearing an Ogust 2NT response, the opener's conventional rebids are:

Bid	Meaning
3♣	Bad hand (5-7 points) with only one of the top three honours in the pre-empt suit
3♦	Bad hand (5-7 points), two of the top three honours
3♥	Good hand (8-10 points), one of the top three honours
3♠	Good hand (8-10 points), two of the top three honours
3NT	Good hand (8-10 points), all three top honours

The mnemonic for remembering Ogust responses is "Minors are Minimum, 1-2-1-2-3." Rebids by the Ogust bidder are natural.

Examples:

Bidding:

Opener	Responder
♠Q52	♠AJ
♥AT9832	♥K65
♦T83	♦J54
♣5	♣AQ987

2♥ (1)	2NT (2)
3♣ (3)	3♥ (4)
Pass	

1. Weak two
2. Ogust, asking opener to describe her hand
3. Showing minimum strength with only 1 top honour
4. Responder signs off with a minimum game try

Opener	Responder
♠AQJ842	♠K65
♥Q4	♥AJT2
♦53	♦A742
♣762	♣A8

2♠ (1)	2NT (2)
3♠ (3)	4♠
Pass	

1. Weak two
1. Ogust, asking opener to describe her hand
2. Showing maximum strength with 2 top honours

If Ogust is doubled, the conventional responses are still on; after an overcall, they are off. The opener can double for penalties, pass with a bad hand, or rebid his suit if it is worth it.

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A well-balanced player makes up for the inadequacies in his bidding by the ineptitude of his play!
Alfred Sheinwold

Here's an article that was written by Jordan Moshe for the "South African Jewish Report" (www.sajr.co.za) that features one of our most accomplished younger players, and is reproduced with the permission of the editor of the SA Jewish Report. It was entitled



BRIDGING THE GAP

To most of us, the game of bridge is an archaic pastime played by the elderly. To 18-year-old Noah Apteker, however, it's not only an addictive thrill, but the key to success in matric.

This King David Linksfield matriculant made his flair for the game work in his favour by applying his bridge brain to exam preparation. It seems he played his cards just right, given that he landed a spot in the top percent of achievers at the school.

"Bridge keeps your mind sharp," Noah says. "It makes you think laterally and increases your problem-solving ability. It's because of bridge that I constantly improved in maths and science. My passion for the game affected my ability to study."

His passion for bridge goes back to his childhood. The son of champion bridge player Alon Apteker, Noah has been enthusiastic about the game since the age of nine, becoming an avid professional bridge player through the Links Bridge Club. Under the tutelage of bridge champion Neville Eber, Noah rapidly rose to prominence. He participated in local and international bridge competitions throughout his school career.

"I was hooked from the start," he says. "Unfortunately, there's a stigma attached to bridge that it's a game for old Jewish grannies, and my friends would joke about the fact that I was playing bridge against their grandmothers."

Noah persevered, however, making a name for himself, and playing at club and competition level throughout his school career.

He became the youngest winner ever in 2018 at the SA Teams Bridge Championships, then defending this title last year. He was also runner-up at last year's National Pairs competition.

At the European Open Pairs tournament held in Istanbul in 2019, Noah and his partner qualified in the first round in fourth place and finished in the semi-finals, where they were placed in the top 100 in the tournament. In spite of his competitive nature, Noah knuckled down and devoted his time to his studies, achieving high marks for prelims, and earning six distinctions in his final exams.

He says playing bridge in small doses throughout exams was crucial, keeping his priorities in check while finding time to unwind with regular games. "I tried not to immerse myself entirely in my work," he says. "I kept up bridge playing throughout the year, went out socially during finals, and balanced them both with my workload. That's why it worked so well."

Noah has qualified to study engineering in the United States and will set off in September. Until then, he will be almost solely occupied with bridge, playing on the local and international professional scene.

Noah will also be preparing for the bridge Olympiad in Italy, the trials for which are scheduled to take place in February.

Although he won't pursue bridge professionally in the US, he intends to continue playing the game, eager to be part of the vibrant bridge community in New York.

(The whole Gauteng bridge community wishes Noah all the best in New York, and on whatever paths he follows in the future! Ed.)



SID'S SOLUTION

I apportion the blame 85% to East and 15% to West:

85%: East has 3 aces and this is a **huge** asset to have opposite an opening hand with a 9-card fit. East should bid 4♦ over 4♣ (cue bid) and await instructions.

15%: West has a great hand (albeit having one ace only) opposite an opening hand with spade support. One more try can be made after 4♣. But I sympathize with West's thinking that East has wasted values in clubs.

WELL WORTH THE WAIT

by Paul Inbona

I encountered a stunner yesterday (1st February 2020. ed.) at The Links. When the dust settled we were -1 against Noah Apteker and Bernard Donde and when I looked at the record, it said you can make 3NT against best defence. Neither Noah nor Bernard could see it at the table, and I thought I was onto a pretty special hand.

I tried to decipher it at home but to no avail, so I enlisted the help of Sid Ismail, and after a few exchanges of emails and use of our own bridge programs (he uses Deep Finesse, and I used an app on my phone called Bridge Solver), I came up with the right solution, which I describe below. It is one of the most amazing hands I have had to witness, and it made up for the disappointing results we had on that day. That one hand made it worth all the pain and sweat.



Paul Inbona

Dir. E Vul. N/S	♠ QT84 ♥ Q3 ♦ 98653 ♣ Q5	
♠ 52 ♥ J7654 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ J8		♠ AJ976 ♥ A2 ♦ A2 ♣ AK32
	♠ K3 ♥ KT98 ♦ T4 ♣ T9764	

Trick 1: ♠T-♣8-♣5-♣A. You have to duck in dummy, and you have to take the A or K in your hand. If you duck the trick completely, South can continue clubs or shift to ♥T to defeat you.

After this first hurdle you go on with diamonds:

Trick 2: ♦A-♦4-♦7-♦3

Trick 3: ♦2-♦T-♦J-♦5

Trick 4: ♦Q-♦6-♣2-??. If South discards a club, then the threat of losing 3 clubs is gone and all roads lead to 9 tricks. Cash the last diamond, discarding a club from hand, South discarding a heart; then deep finesse the spades. South can play a further club to the K. Then ♥A followed by a heart endplays either South if he plays the K or North if he is allowed

to win with the Q! So let's go back to trick 4 and assume that South discards a heart:

Trick 4: ♦Q-♦6-♣2-♥8. In that case, declarer must strand the fourth diamond in dummy and deep finesse the spades, covering any spade from North.

Trick 5: ♠2-♠4-♠6-♠K. It does not help South to duck this trick; he can then do no better than a club.

Trick 6: ♣4-♣J-♣Q-♣3!! You have to duck this trick to endplay North and retain control of the clubs. Then North is doomed:

- If he plays a diamond, he gives the lead to dummy who can finesse the spades
- If he plays a spades, he surrenders the 9th trick straight away and declarer can win and put North on hand again with a spades
- If he plays the ♥Q, you take it with the Ace and play back the ♥2. South wins with the King but must play back a club which you win in hand and you can endplay North with a spade,
- If he plays the ♥3, then you can either take the Ace and return a heart or play small and you also end up endplaying North.

This is one of the most beautiful hands I have encountered and just for that one I was happy to be at The Links yesterday.

We will be taking a rest next month – there will be no GBU Bridge Bulletin in March. But please, send in your articles and pictures because we will be publishing again in April.

**Overheard at the bridge club:
"Too bad, partner. That was an unlucky grand slam. The ace of trumps was offside."**

GBU FREE SEMINAR #1

SID ISMAIL: THE PROGRESSIVE AUCTION



Sid presenting the Seminar

I attended Sid's most interesting, first-of-the-decade, GBU Seminar on Saturday February 1st at The Links. There were about 55 people present of varying bridge standards and words used to describe the presentation were thought provoking and brilliant!

How to show partner one's hand accurately, and whether game is on or not, are crucial to correct bidding. Sid emphasised the point of not leaving partner in any doubt as to what you have in your hand and therefore finding the correct place to land the contract.

The first example illustrated was where the opener begins 1♠ and he has 5 at least. You as responder hold 4 spades, a long minor side suit headed by A K Q x x x and two singletons. A bid of 4NT will enable you from your partner's answer to see if slam is on.

The next example was about what to bid when the opponents have intervened with a bid. Partner opened 1♠ (5 card minimum suit), opponents came in with 2♣ and in your hand there are 2♠, 5♥, 5♦ and 1♣ with a total of 12 points. 2♥ is the answer as this shows 5

cards in hearts and at least 10 points. Opener can reply safely with 3 cards in the heart suit and you as responder will go 4♥ with your point count and distribution. Easy?

Next came examples of Fourth Suit Forcing which Sid recommended all club players should have in their armoury; but to be used carefully! This, if used properly, should guide you to the correct game. It is best to look this one up in a bridge book. There are pitfalls! It is commonly used when looking for a final contract of 3NT but there are disadvantages if one hand has a singleton for example. Sid showed us that in many cases a 7-card major fit is a better option. Many players shy away from a Moyesian fit but it can be the better choice. Then the value of using a cue bid raise was shown. Partner opens 1♠ (which could be as short as two cards) and next comes from the opponents a bid of 1♦. You as responder have values, at least 10 points, but no major. If you bid 2♦ (their suit) it shows your hand perfectly: I have no major but 5 clubs. Where do you want to be partner? It does not show diamonds! As in this case partner had a poor 12-point opener with clubs and no major, he bid 3 clubs, their correct final resting place.

All this discussed in 90 minutes! and much food for thought!

Deirdre Ingersent

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

1	ACOL	11	DEFEND	21	NO TRUMPS	31	SPADES
2	BALANCED	12	DIAMOND	22	OVER TRICK	32	STANDARD
3	BID	13	DIRECTOR	23	PLAY	33	STAYMAN
4	BLACKWOOD	14	DRURY	24	POINT RANGE	34	SUIT
5	CALL	15	DUPLICATE	25	RAISE	35	THIRTEEN
6	CLUBS	16	FINESSE	26	REDOUBLE	36	TRICK
7	CONVENTION	17	HAND	27	RESPONSE	37	TUTOR
8	CUEBID RAISE	18	JUMP	28	REVOKE	38	WIN
9	DEAL	19	MAJOR	29	RULES		
10	DECLARER	20	MICHAELS	30	SLAM		

Here we give only the original 38 answers. Apparently, some readers found 48! Well, 38 is enough to go into the draw! And the winner of the R 250 Woolworths voucher, selected by an electronic draw, is Ann Whitehead, of ABC who found the 48! There were also many other correct answers, including those from Norman Kennelly of BRIDGE@ORCHARDS and Chris Bosenberg, now in Cape Town. Thanks to all of you who entered – we'll try and have further competitions to give you more chances to win