



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair

The Bridge Lounge

Puzzles

Sid's Quiz

Safety Plays

Play in Haste, Repent at
Leisure

The Perfect Bridge Hand

Puzzle Solutions

FROM THE CHAIR

Three topics to be talked about this month.

The first one is the topic of vaccinations which is much discussed at the moment. At the time of writing (mid September), 7,473,903 people have been fully vaccinated, representing 12.8% of our total population, and 11,034,034 (18.8% of the population) have had at least one dose. No deaths have been attributed to Covid vaccines in South Africa, while the latest data show they work. Vaccines are now freely available to the entire adult population here. The over 60s (and many of our Gauteng bridge players are in this age category) are considered most at risk.

Discovery's research suggests that people who have been vaccinated are 3 times less likely to infect others, 4 times less likely to end up in high care/ICU, and 10 times less likely to die if they get

Covid compared to unvaccinated individuals. Other sobering statements are vaccines have been proven to be effective and are the only viable countermeasure to avoid ongoing lockdowns and social isolation. Furthermore, if a sufficient percentage of our population is not vaccinated we will never return to normality again.

As the risk of getting Covid is higher in crowded and poorly ventilated spaces where infected people spend long periods of time together in close proximity, bridge clubs must remain closed. As the virus is known to be spread by respiratory droplets, coughing, sneezing, or just talking when people are close to each other are dangerous activities! As James Grant said to me recently, we want to see what happens in other countries when they open their bridge clubs and we must remember we have the most vaccinated people in Africa but many less than European countries.

Secondly, and very sad to report, our GBU family has lost quite a few members to either Covid or related problems during the time our member bridge clubs have been closed. Unfortunately we only hear of these deaths if someone informs us as most of us only "see" each other on BBO. All our

king and queen, discarding a heart from dummy. When they broke, he played a spade, but north (a Pro) was alert – he hopped up with the ace of spades and switched to ace and another heart, giving the defence five tricks.

The same contract was reached at another table, but there declarer did much better. After winning the first diamond he played a small spade immediately. Now it was much tougher for north to figure out what was going on, and he played low. With one spade trick in the bag, plus the two top diamonds, declarer ran for home with six club tricks.

I think north should have got it right though. Why wasn't declarer playing on his long club suit? Maybe he was trying to get to dummy to take a club finesse, but either way it could never cost to grab the ace of spades and play ace and another heart.

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.



PUZZLES

WORD SEARCH

Bridge Terms

D	R	E	P	D	F	A	E	V	L	K	E	T	R	O
A	I	R	K	F	O	A	J	X	M	R	S	C	V	P
U	E	S	U	O	G	O	Z	Z	E	P	S	A	D	E
T	F	R	C	C	V	J	W	B	Z	W	E	R	I	N
E	C	P	U	A	Q	E	R	K	R	D	N	T	S	I
D	E	C	L	A	R	E	R	D	C	S	I	N	T	N
Y	M	M	U	D	G	D	O	N	X	A	F	O	R	G
R	R	L	Q	F	F	U	S	O	Y	F	L	C	I	L
E	D	Q	Q	V	B	D	Y	U	O	G	D	B	B	E
B	G	H	U	L	I	A	A	R	X	N	M	B	U	A
B	H	V	E	B	O	R	D	V	T	P	V	G	T	D
U	X	T	E	V	L	M	S	J	I	N	Q	I	I	E
R	O	U	S	T	O	P	P	E	R	T	E	W	O	A
N	C	M	A	T	C	H	P	O	I	N	T	S	N	O
D	I	B	E	V	I	T	P	M	E	E	M	I	K	B

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| BLACKWOOD | MATCH POINTS |
| CONTRACT | OPENING LEAD |
| CUE BIDS | PRE-EMPTIVE BID |
| DECLARER | REVOKE |
| DISCARD | RUBBER |
| DISTRIBUTION | RUFF |
| DOUBLETON | SMALL SLAM |
| DUMMY | STOPPER |
| ENTRY | TAKE OUT |
| FINESSE | UNDER TRICK |
| GERBER | VULNERABLE |

HAND A DUMMY
A1063

YOU
KQ972

HAND B DUMMY
A863

YOU
KQ972

In each of these examples, the problem is to avoid losing a trick if one of the opponents holds all four of the outstanding cards.

Hand A: You have a 100% certainty of winning 5 tricks. Play K first. If one opponent shows out, you can then safely finesse against other opponent's J. You still have A-10 in dummy and Q-9 in your hand.

Hand B: Do NOT play K first! Play the 2 to dummy's A. If L.H. opponent shows out you can then finesse against the other opponent's remaining J105 with your KQ97. Lead 3 from dummy, cover his 10 with your Q. Re-enter dummy in another suit and finesse again against the J. You were missing both the J and 10 and therefore must keep two honour cards over them.

HAND C DUMMY
AKQ64

YOU
75

HAND D DUMMY
AKQ643

YOU
75

There are no outside entries to dummy but in each case you can afford to give up one trick and still make your contract.

Hand C: The correct play is to give up a trick to the opponents immediately. This guards against a 4-2 break which occurs about 48% of the time. A 3-3 break happens about 36%.

Hand D: Debatable what to do. There could be a 4-1 trump break but the odds of a 3-2 break are 68%. Perhaps the bidding of the opponents will help in deciding whether it would be wise to give up a trick immediately.

HAND E North
DUMMY
 A932
 South
YOU
 K10763

HAND F North
DUMMY
 763
 South
YOU
 AQ10954

Hand E: the only way you can lose two tricks is if one opponent holds all four outstanding cards, Q, J, 8, 4. To guard against this possibility use this safety play. Lead a small card towards dummy. If W plays a small card, finesse 9. If it loses to E, you now know suit will break no worse than three-one and your AK will pick up outstanding cards. If 9 holds and E shows out on the first play of the suit, you eventually lose only one trick to W. If W shows out on the first play of the suit, you can still play 9, losing to E’s J. Win any return, play N’s Ace and take proven finesse against E’s Q.

Hand F: A fairly common card combination where it is easy to make a mistake. If W holds 3 or 4 cards headed by KJ, there is no way to avoid losing 2 tricks. However, safety play will help!

Lead 7 from dummy. If a small card is played by E, DO NOT FINESSE, play Ace. If an honour is played by W, continue as follows: if J, give up a trick to K. If K played (under your Ace), you are in clover with a “bonus trick” because you then re-enter dummy in another suit and finesse E for missing J.

If, when you played the Ace, W followed low or showed out, return to dummy in another suit and lead 6. Now cover whatever E plays.

If W originally showed out, get into dummy again and lead up to your hand. In any event, you lose only to opponent’s K.

In Hand E, the safety play was to take first round finesse, but in Hand F, the safety play was to REFUSE to take first round finesse!

A Useful Tip: I find by putting the actual cards out, this whole article becomes clearer!



PLAY IN HASTE, REPENT AT LEISURE

by **Neville Eber**

In bygone times, being much younger & playing more frequently I had total recall & visualisation of the countless hands I played. Discussion thereto often ensued days if not weeks later! Now if I am involved in an intricate hand it’s often a case of “out of sight out of mind.” The positive aspect being

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

Method 1: After South shows out in trumps, you resign yourself to losing a trump and since you have contracted for a small slam, you need to make the rest. At this stage we assume the ♠K is with North (we can see that it is) and we proceed as follows -

tr 1: ♥K led taken with the ace

tr 2: ♣A but South shows out

tr 3: ♠Q advanced - covered by K and ace wins

tr 4: back to ♠J

tr 5: ruff a spade

tr 6: trump to king

tr 7: the 4th spade! If North ruffs higher than dummy, that will be his only trick; if he discards we ruff the spade, then get back to hand by ruffing a heart. We will then cash the trump lady and play on diamonds. North can ruff when he wishes to.

Method 2: Same as above up to trick 5.

tr 6: duck a club to North!

tr 7: if N plays back a trump, win and cash the last trump;

if N plays a heart, ruff and cash a trump;

if N plays back a diamond, we win, ruff a heart and cash a trump.

tr 9: assuming a trump came back, we then cash the last trump and South gets squeezed.

He has to unguard his spade or the diamond, giving you your 12th trick. The last 5 cards are shown in the diagram that follows with South still to play.

Optimum:
NS -1370

LoTT: 18-18 = 0

♠ K 7 2
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ 2
♣ J 9 6 2

Contract: 6♣ by W
(originally played in 5C)

NS Tricks: 1
EW Tricks: 7

♠ Q J 5 3
♥ A
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A K Q 10 8

23

♠ A 4
♥ J 10 8
♦ A K Q 9
♣ 7 5 4 3

16 9 14
 1

♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ J 10 6 5 4
♣

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	6	3	3
S	1	3	6	3	3
E	12	10	6	8	9
W	12	10	6	8	9

TIP: Take sufficient time to plan the play. Then put your plan into action.

