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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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Editor: Stephen Rosenberg
E-mail: stephen@valuersinc.co.za

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I like the sound of this New Year 2020 or twenty-twenty as many people are already writing it! It is the start of a new decade and has a good feel about it. Let's hope it will be a good year for South Africa and for us as bridge players; a good year at all our affiliated clubs and good support for all the organised events coming up. It was heartening to see some of our new and younger players improving last year and may that trend continue with all of us encouraging our friends, children and even grandchildren to learn bridge. It is addictive, but in a good way!

My own personal New Year Resolution is to read more about bridge and improve my play. It is too easy to just continue playing year in year out the same old way but maybe it is time to add some new tools to one's bridge armoury. We all like to play a hand but defence is just as important as in an average session of club bridge defending will take up 50% of the session. One of my partners complains if she does not hold good cards and can become bored and not pay attention to the cards which have been played and this can lead to us conceding an extra trick so instead of the opposition making 10 tricks in a 4 spades contract, they garner 11! Oh la la, that will give us a bottom in Duplicate Pairs. Strong players are becoming more aggressive in their bidding and often take away contracts. Especially if not vulnerable they contest the auction and will be happy to go down a couple of tricks doubled if that is better for them than the opposition making their contract. Doubling for penalties is done on a regular basis by the stronger players and they tell me is the way to go to achieve better results.



Deirdre Ingersent

The GBU Seminars will continue in 2020; the library at The Links is open for players to borrow books. Hand records are available at each organised event and I have found it helpful to take one home and study it. For me laying out the hands and looking at how the contract can be made I find a useful exercise. Many top players like to go through the hands at the end of a session and discuss problematic hands with other top players. Of course BBO is also an excellent aid. It's possible to practise with a regular partner, join a table and make friends, watch others play and of course there are opportunities to watch top events as they are happening. I hope you are feeling inspired now to try at least one of these things! So happy bridging everyone and I look forward to seeing you all at the bridge table!

Yours in bridge,
Deirdre Ingersent

FROM THE EDITOR



Stephen Rosenberg

There's something about this time of the year, the start of a new year, that simply cries out for clichés and platitudes! I'm sure that I won't disappoint any of you!! It seems as if 2019 was a hard year for many of us – keeping our health, losing friends and family to the Grim Reaper and/or emigration, political turmoil from north to south, east to west, natural disasters wherever one looked! So, what kept us all sane? I suppose the answer must be our twice, thrice, or fice (?) weekly contact with the game of bridge and with those wonderful people that play it. Just as Giacomo Casanove once said that “there is something of beauty in all women” so we must strive to find that “something of niceness” in all bridge players.



In tough contact sports like Rugby Football (which I once played at a competitive level) there is always a respect, player for player. Sure, smash him up on the field, but never with the intention of doing lasting harm, and then buy him a beer or two or more after the game!

I see too much petty nastiness, point-scoring, rudeness and bad attitude at the bridge table that makes it hard to find that “something of niceness” in *all* players. I once had a boss who could only feel big when he was making those around him feel small. I would hate to think that there are those of you who would adopt him as a role-model. So, I am suggesting a few New Year bridge resolutions.

1. “I don't have to love them, 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!”

Have a great year, in bridge as in everything else.



Stephen Rosenberg

SID'S QUIZ “GROUNDWORK”



Sid Ismail

	♠ A ♥ T8765 ♦ KQJT ♣ 432	
♠ 7 ♥ 432 ♦ A98732 ♣ 765		♠ K65432 ♥ --- ♦ 654 ♣ KT98
	♠ QJT98 ♥ AKQT9 ♦ --- ♣ AQJ	

You are seated South and reach a 7♥ contract. Opponent leads the 2♥. How would you play the hand? Have a go at it yourself. If you get stuck, you will find Sid's Solution on page 8.

Sid Ismail will be delivering the first G B U seminar of the new decade, *free to G B U members*.

VENUE: The Links

DATE: Saturday 1st February 2020

TIME: 1100

TITLE: “The Progressive Auction”

See you all there.

JEFF SAPIRE'S BRIDGE LOUNGE

Jeff, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, teaches all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. 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

Dir: S Vul: EW Teams	♠ K842 ♥ QJ8 ♦ K2 ♣ KJ82		
♠ 765 ♥ 765 ♦ AJ96 ♣ 643		♠ QJT9 ♥ A93 ♦ T8743 ♣ 7	
	♠ A3 ♥ KT42 ♦ Q5 ♣ AQT95		

“WHAT TO DISCARD”

Experts like to run off long suits when short of tricks for their contract. Sometimes there may seem to be no point to it, but it's amazing what problems it can cause. Discarding is one of the toughest areas of defence, and often the defenders are simply not sure about what cards to keep, or what to signal.

The bidding went like this:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P	2♣	P	1NT
P	3NT	ALL P	2♥

The opening lead was the 6♦.

Note South's opening bid of 1NT (15-17). In days gone by most people would have opened this hand 1C and then rebid 1H if possible, or 2♣ over a 1♠ response. But the modern style is to begin with 1NT instead, even though the hand is only semi-

balanced. The thinking behind this is that
a) it avoids having to rebid a 5-card suit (which here isn't too bad), and
b) it hides information from the opponents.

Partner can still use Stayman if necessary, but sequences like 1NT – 3NT are always much tougher to defend and lead against.

Declarer put up the king of diamonds and weighed up his chances. He could try leading a heart, and if opponents ducked he'd have nine tricks. However, most competent defenders would surely grab the ace of hearts and take four diamond tricks. So he decided to run the club suit to see if anything would happen. Well, it did! East had to find four discards. The first three were easy; the 9-3 of hearts – encouraging and signalling the ace, and then the ♠Q (showing the spade sequence). But on the fifth club, East was in big trouble, squeezed in three suits. He had to hang on to the ♥A, and a second spade would have given declarer four tricks there. So he discarded a small diamond, but now declarer could play a heart to establish his ninth trick, with the defence only able to take three diamond winners.

The late Terence Reese once commented about playing off one's long suit: *“by playing one's long suit, even if there wasn't material gain, (unlike this hand where there was), one could often gauge what was troubling the defenders.”*



Terence Rees

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

SOUTH AFRICAN TEXAS TRANSFERS

by Stephen Rosenberg



South African Texas Transfers are transfer bids in response to a 1NT opening. They are a variation of Texas Transfers, and use the club and diamond suits (instead of diamonds and hearts) to transfer to the majors. South African Texas is attributed to Max Sapire, a prominent player in the 1960s and 1970s. According to the Encyclopaedia of Bridge, it is also credited as the original form of Texas Transfers first introduced TO America by David Carter.

BID	MEANING
4♣	shows at least 6 hearts and game values, requiring partner to rebid 4♥.
4♦	shows at least 6 spades and game values, requiring partner to rebid 4♠.

South African Texas is less popular than Texas Transfers. The minor benefit of South African Texas is that it is theoretically easier to remember 4♦ as a transfer bid rather than 4♥. The drawback to South African Texas is the loss of the Gerber 4♣ bid, looking for aces immediately over a 1NT opening. South African Texas offers the ability to show game-forcing spade hands in three ways:

- Via a 2♥ *Jacoby Transfer* followed by a 4♠ rebid, hinting at slam
- Via a 4♦ transfer
- Via a direct 4♠ bid

If opponents interfere in the bidding, South African Texas is only on if the interference is lower than 3♦.



THE HISTORY CHANNEL

ITALY v U S A

1957

In every country where bridge is played, different methods of bidding have developed.

Take this deal from the U.S.-Italy match in 1957. At the first table, Italy's Walter Avarelli and Giorgio Belladonna held the North-South cards. They were playing the Roman Club system, which features many unusual conventions.

Avarelli opened the North hand with 1♥. He could not bid 1♣ because that would have indicated either a very powerful hand, or 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 distribution!

Belladonna responded 2♦ instead of 1♠ because in the Roman System the shorter suit is normally mentioned first when responder has a good hand. Avarelli then bid



Walter Avarelli

3♣, promising a five-card suit, and Belladonna bid 3NT. South's spade suit, oddly enough, was never mentioned. All three suit bids were contrary to the American style, which calls for the longer suit to be bid first. West led the ♦K and defeated the contract one trick, scoring four diamonds and a spade.

At the second table, with Boris Koytchou and Harold Ogust North-South for the United States, the bids were all natural, and West (Guglielmo Siniscalco) wound up in 2♦ doubled making only four diamond tricks, a spade and a heart to finish down two, minus 300.

So Italy lost 400 points on the deal, which proves virtually nothing other than that the language of bidding is far from universal.

Dir. N	♠ JT	
Vul. NS	♥ AJ43	
	♦ 85	
	♣ AQJ73	
♠ A63		♠ 987
♥ QT97		♥ K82
♦ KQJT7		♦ 93
♣ 2		♣ T9854
	♠ KQ542	
	♥ 65	
	♦ A642	
	♣ K6	

IMPROVE YOUR BIDDING

by Deirdre Ingersent

Here are two Conventions which should assist a good intermediate level bridge player to become a *better* intermediate level bridge player!

1. **DRURY** is a convention which enables one to open light in either the 3rd or 4th position seat. It only applies to *major suit openings* and to those hands which have a decent suit and 9, 10 or 11 points

For example: ♠ K Q J x x
 ♥ K x x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ x x

The bidding goes: 1S-P-2C (artificial bid by responder asking are you a weak opener or are you up to strength?) To respond at all opener's partner needs 10 or 11 points and a fit with partner in the major! Opener just rebids 2S with the weak hand and 2D indicating an up to strength hand and responder can find the right spot to place the final contract. It is perhaps best to use when non vulnerable and can often assist in finding a part score which might otherwise be overlooked!

2. SUPPORT DOUBLE

This is a useful convention to tell partner "*I only have 3 card support in the suit you bid*".

The support double can only be used by the Opener and *only* at the 2 level! If the opponents come in at the 3 level it doesn't apply!

For example 1♦ P 1♥ 1♠ followed by 2♥ - Opener says I have 4 cards in the heart suit

However, 1♦ P 1♥ 1♠ followed by X - Opener says I have only 3 card support in your heart suit.

I have to thank Jeff Sapire for the above as I heard about them on an excellent presentation he gave at the end of last year. His talks are well researched and illustrated with many clear examples.

Here's another take on Drury, entitled

THE RAVIN'

by
Edgar Allan Pavlicek

Once upon a
midnight, Drury
Drove my
partner to a fury.

All I did was bid two
clubs;
Don't know why
he got so sore.

While I nodded,
nearly napping,
I received a
verbal flapping.

Partner asked me
o'er and o'er,
"Have
you ever played
before?"
As for Drury...
Nevermore!

TIMING THE PLAY

by Barbara Smith

Dir.: N Vul.: N/S	♠Q52 ♥JT8 ♦KJ975 ♣98	
♠k74 ♥K93 ♦J86 ♣Q432		♠JT986 ♥652 ♦42 ♣AJT
	♠A3 ♥AQ74 ♦AQ2 ♣K765	

Barbara Smith is one of our consistent and loyal senior players, and also a well-known writer of instructive, and often humorous, bridge stories. This one" is written for relative newcomers to the game. She asks that you study the hand below – you are South playing in 3NT; the ♠J is led. How many tricks can you count?

On the spade lead you are assured of two spade tricks; once the ♥K is out, you have three heart tricks. The diamonds break, giving you another five tricks – ten in all. So why did many of the declarers only make **nine** tricks?

I was dealt the North hand in a tournament a few years' ago. My partner opened 1♣ and I elected to bid 1NT rather than 1♦ as I considered this the better bid in pairs. The lead was the ♠J, the three from dummy, and West's king won. He returned the 4 to dummy's A♠. So I now had my two spade tricks! I played A♦ followed by Q♦ and was given the good news that they broke, and

I had my five diamond tricks! While I still had spade control, I played J♥ which lost to the king. Even a club return would be safe with the King in dummy. What many of the less experienced players had done was to cash their winners and take the heart finesse without keeping a spade stopper – so only nine made. And yes, many of them congratulated themselves on making 3NT and could not understand how or why they got a "bottom" on the hand. Elementary? Maybe, but people still do it.

I am fortunate to have been loaned ten or so of the original "The Bridge Bulletin" published some 40 years' ago, by the SABF, sold for 30c each, and carrying advertising for South African Airways and Ransom Select (remember those?) among others. Here's an article by the late Leon Sapire from no. 3/4 dated March-April 1975, and entitled

ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Women's bridge in South Africa has made great strides in recent years – not only in the organisation but also in the standard of play. I was all the more disappointed to see in one of the last rounds of the Women's National Team-of-Four event that not one of a number of declarers sitting South in the following hand was able to draw the necessary inferences from the bidding and play of the following hand in order to make the contract – all going down without fail!

Dir: N	♠ AQ82		
Vul: N/S	♥ 953		
	♦ 42		
	♣ K864		
♠ 53		♠ 76	
♥ AJT42		♥ K	
♦ AT965		♦ J87	
♣ Q		♣ JT97532	
	♠ KJT94		
	♥ Q876		
	♦ KQ3		
	♣ A		

With NS vulnerable, South at her turn bid 1♠, West bidding either 2♥ or 3♦ showing a red two-suiter. South however reached 4♠ and the lead was the ♠Q.

With shrugs of resignation, declarer drew trumps, played diamonds and lost 4 tricks in all – one in diamonds and three in hearts. Could they have done better?

When dummy comes down with its three losing hearts, declarer, holding 4 hearts, must immediately draw the inference that West, holding at least 5 hearts cannot have both the Ace and The King, otherwise a top heart would have been led. So east holds either the Ace or King bare!

Now the play for 10 tricks is not too difficult! Win the lead with the ♠A, enter dummy with the Ace of trumps, ruff a small club high, enter dummy with the ♠Q, play King and another club, first discarding a heart and then ruffing, and exit with the ♦K. West wins and returns a diamond won in hand, and then ruff a diamond in dummy. A small heart is played from dummy to this end position:

East wins and is forced to play a club, enabling a ruff in one hand and discarding a heart in the other. Thus declarer loses only two hearts and one diamond, making the seemingly impossible contract of 4♠. Can the defenders beat the contract? Yes, undoubtedly so; for example, if West was "psychic" she could have led the ♥A followed by the Jack; East would ruff, return a diamond and West is in to lead another heart for East to ruff!

Notwithstanding her original lead of the ♠Q, West could still defeat the contract when she gets in with the ♦A. All she has to do is to underlead her ♥A (!); thus when East gets in with the ♥K, she can safely exit with a diamond. Now declarer must lose two more hearts and goes down.

Dir: N	♠ 8		
Vul: N/S	♥ 953		
	♦ ---		
	♣ ---		
♠ ---		♠ ---	
♥ AJT		♥ K	
♦ T		♦ ---	
♣ ---		♣ JT9	
	♠ T		
	♥ Q87		
	♦ ---		
	♣ ---		

West has a possible clue when she wins with the ♦A that a throw-in play may be pending, but if she adopts that line of defence, she would feel pretty sore afterwards if declarer turned up holding the Kx or Kxx in hearts which could easily be possible.

This is just to remind all players, Club Chairs and Proprietors that the following G B U rules must be enforced at all clubs:

1. players must count their cards before they look at them – they should have 13!
2. players must leave their bidding cards out until the opening lead has been faced, and
3. players may not gather up their cards until all have agreed the number of tricks taken by each side.

Stephen Rosenberg, Convenor, G B U Ethics and Laws Sub-Committee

ELIMINATION

A BRIDGE WORD SEARCH GAME

WIN A R250 WOOLWORTHS VOUCHER

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

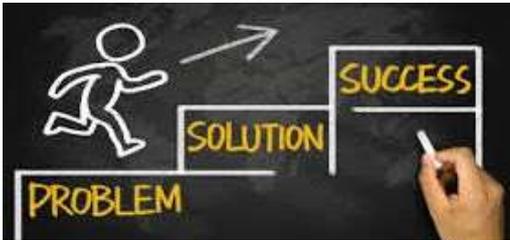
(devised by Deirdre Ingersent)

If you look carefully, you will find 38 jumbled words and/or phrases, all bridge related. They can run up, down, sideways, diagonally and even a combination of these! Find and email them (preferably in alphabetical order) to stephen@valuersinc.co.za to reach him by no later than Wednesday 12th February. All correct entries will go into an electronic draw for a R 250 Woolworths voucher. The solution and the winner's name will be published in our next edition of The Bridge Bulletin later in February.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Northern's Bridge Club on reaching its 25th Anniversary, no mean achievement and owing a lot to Gill Brown (seen below putting up the anniversary poster) and her many loyal members who have kept this club, not only alive, but kicking quite lustily!





SID'S SOLUTION

Trick 1: Win the first trick in dummy with the ♥T, dropping your ♥9.

Trick 2: Play the ♣4 from dummy and finesse the ♣K by playing the ♣J.

Trick 3: Play the ♠8 to the Ace in dummy.

Trick 4: Play the ♣4 from dummy and again finesse the ♣K.

Trick 5: Cash the ♣A.

Tricks 6 – 13: For these 8 tricks, you simply crossruff 4 Spades and 4 Diamonds with your high trumps!

A grand slam bid and made!! By the way, the exact order of play as shown above is necessary for you to make the slam.

The SABF Open and Women's Team Trials to select our National Teams will be held in Johannesburg from 4th to 7th February inclusive. Details and entry particulars on www.sabf.co.za.

THE LAST LAUGH



We can all put a number of names to this player!

G B U's "The Bridge Bulletin" will be continue to appear regularly during 2020. It is both an informative publication and a means of communication for the G B U Committee to speak to its member clubs and players. If you would like to make comments about the Bulletin, or submit articles and/or pictures for inclusion in the Bridge Bulletin, just send an email to stephen@valuersinc.co.za; if you have suggestions for the G B U, write to our Chair, Deirdre Ingersent at dingersent51@gmail.com or WhatsApp her on 082 430 4140.