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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

I am thinking that if you are reading this you are computer literate and know the joy that BBO has brought to bridge players in South Africa as they live under severe Lockdown restrictions. If you have not learned how to play online, please do as we are not going to be playing bridge in clubs for a long time to come!

Now I must come to some very sad news - the passing of two very valued members of our bridge community, Peter Maybury and Paul Van Der Wal.



Peter Maybury

Peter died a little while back, from a brain tumour. In his later years he had played at both the Dainfern and Rivonia Clubs where he was known for his cheerful manner and his willingness to help players improve their standard of bridge. I was told that in the days when we were under sanctions, he represented South Africa on a tour to Taiwan in 1988 and again in 2007 to Singapore, Taipei and Hong Kong. He had taken to BBO as far back as 2005 and was very keen that others should learn it too. He spent several months of each year in the UK but always continued with his bridge there as well.

Paul's death was more recent and quite sudden, from an embolism. He first appeared on the Benoni Northerns bridge scene five years ago and was beloved by everyone at the club. A true gentleman, he learned how to operate the Scorebridge

programme and operated the computer at the club faithfully every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon. He formed a partnership with Bridie Bullen-Smith, and they were always the pair to beat in the club events. The highlight of Paul's annual bridge calendar was to represent Benoni Northerns in the National Inter Club Event which he had done in the last few years. He ran the Links Gentle tournament on a Saturday afternoon and made it special for the players there, both as the Tournament Director and as a tutor and will be greatly missed for his friendly manner and the encouragement he showed everyone.

Peter and Paul, you will both be greatly missed on the bridge scene. May your dear souls rest in peace.

Yours in bridge,

Deirdre Ingersent



Paul van der Wal and long-time bridge partner Bridie Bullen-Smith

(Editor's note. I was touched to see obituaries for Peter Maybury on the websites of both the Allandale Bridge Club and the Christchurch Bridge Club in his home county of Dorset in the UK. Stephen Rosenberg)

ONLINE BRIDGE 2

I was East, however, sitting south; I don't know how this came about.
 The opposition bid one spade and West bid a heart.
 Quickly, I did my part; four spades I pressed.
 A double came down!
 My partner wrote, "what is this all about!"
 I stared and then realised, Oh, I thought you'd called a spade
 This contract was easy to make !!!
 Now, my hand hovers high; near undo it goes.
 I cannot have my hand by my side for otherwise I am too slow.
 The self-alert is another thing; the explanation has to be made.
 I keep questioning my every move, is it that I am too staid?
 Now that we are on lockdown 4, I have to smarter be.
 Get my act together and not wait to dummy be,
 Just so that I can have one more cup of tea.



About the author.

Sarita Mathur is a Durban-based bridge player and established author, having already had books of her poetry published. She writes in the well-established free verse format that dates back to the early Greek poets. The critique on Amazon of her most recent book "Once Again Love – Reconnecting with the Heart" includes the following: "author Sarita Mathur introduces readers to the joy of a life filled with love through a whimsical mixture of poetry and prose, at times heart-breaking."

SID'S QUIZ

"HOW TO PLAY THIS?"

WEST		EAST	
♠ 876		♠ KQT3	
♥ K9643		♥ AJ2	
♦ 83		♦ A7	
♣ K98		♣ AQJ4	

Dealer: E Vulnerable: EW

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2NT	P
3♦	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♥	P	P	P

This hand was played (in a Teams' event) in the 2019 USA Nationals. South led the ♦Q against 4♥. Both rooms won with the ♦A. Then they diverged!
QUIZ: How should tackle this hand? What would you



play at tricks 2 and 3? And then? **Have a go at it and then compare your answer with Sid's Solution on Page 10.**

About the Author. As a player **Sid Ismail** achieved Grandmaster status but has now made the transition from playing high-level bridge games to officiating them as an SABF National Director, one of the very few TDs with Grandmaster status anywhere in the world. He is now involved in many other aspects of the game as a teacher and lecturer, bridge webmaster, Vugraph commentator, and BBO ID-host. He was also the innovator of the "Forum" on the SABF website. If this is not enough, Sid owns a bridge club in Benoni where he is a player, administrator and the Tournament Director.



THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

“JUST TAKE CARE”

Some players would not have a problem with today's hand. All you have to do is get to the obvious 4♥ contract and then make it. But at a recent tournament I was watching, too many players did not bid the hand well in my opinion, and then some of them managed to go down without proper thought!

Dir. E	♠ 8		
Vul. NS	♥ 74		
	♦ J432		
	♣ T76532		
♠ T76543		♠ J92	
♥ 93		♥ K5	
♦ K7		♦ AQT98	
♣ AJ4		♣ Q98	
	♠ AKQ		
	♥ AQJT862		
	♦ 65		
	♣ K		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	X
1♠	P	1NT	4♥
P	P	P	

The South player I was watching handled the hand well in the bidding and play. The first question is what to do over a 1♦ opening bid? Instinctively one wants to bid some number of hearts, but how many? The hand is far too good for 1♥ or even a strong jump overall of 2♥. With nine sure tricks you have to give up on science and just shoot out a game, hoping for an extra trick somewhere. Bidding 4♥ immediately is not right either, because this is pre-emptive, showing a good eight card suit with very little outside values. Best then, is to double first and then jump to 4♥, showing a strong hand with lots of hearts.

On the opening lead of the ♦K, East encouraged with the ten, so West continued. East won with the eight and played the ace. Aware of the danger of an over-ruff, declarer trumped with the ten as West discarded a spade. Perhaps it's easier looking at all four hands, but some declarers in 4♥ had a blind spot. They cashed the

Ace of trumps, and when the king failed to appear, they conceded one down, losing two diamonds, a club and a trump. Once the ten of hearts has stood up, the king of trumps is known to be with East. South found the winning line by cashing the ♥A and ruffing the ♠K in dummy. Now he finessed the ♥J and cashed the King, picking up the trump suit, for ten tricks.

About the Author

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He teaches all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons, contact him on jeffshiri@telkomsa.net, or 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Commented [SR1]:



SVEN WRITES

The second in a series of articles highlighting modern bidding, play and defence
by Sven-Åke Bjerregaard

TO BID OR NOT TO BID, OR WHAT NOT TO BID!

To find the right bid is difficult even for experts. I will try to show you what **not** to bid!

Pre-empts

When you open a weak 2 or you pre-empt on the 3 level, I recommend the following rules:

- Look at the vulnerability. When red be careful.
- Suit quality: QJT98x is much better than Kxxxx.
- Do not open a weak 2 if your hand is close to a normal opening. Let's say you have 10 good points. Open 1 of the suit and later rebid the suit.
- A weak opening should cool off your partner.

Now to look at 3-level pre-empts. An example: you hold AKxx/AKxx/AKxx/x. Your Partner opens 3♣. What do you bid? I think many would bid 3 NT but that's a big mistake. If opener holds xx/xx/xx/KQJTxx he would certainly open 3 C and you end up with 7 tricks (they duck clubs once). 6♣ is cold. I do not say you should bid six but take your money in

5♣. A lot of players open on the 3-level showing about 5-10 points. That's wrong! A pre-empt on the 3-level should contain a good suit *and nothing on the side*. This makes it easy for partner to decide what to bid – if he should sacrifice, if he should try 3 NT or if he can make a penalty double if the opponents bid. You should absolutely not have any tricks on the side. I am aware that in modern bridge you find very aggressive or random pre-emptive openings, but that is for the pros!

A fit or a misfit.

Let's say you hold: KJxxx/KQxx/x/KJx and partner opens 1♦; you bid 1♠ and partner re-bids his diamonds at the two level. You then bid 2♥ forcing and partner sticks to his guns, bidding 3♦.

A lot of players would now bid 3NT just because they have an opening hand and a club stopper. That's wrong! You don't have a fit. Pass! Partner normally has something like this: xx/Ax/KQxxxx/Qx. But if you have: Axxxxx/Kxxx/Ax/Kx, now it is obvious to bid 3NT because you have a diamond fit.

If you have the option pass on a weak hand. Do it!

I know many open on 11 balanced when they play 15-17 NT, but do not open on a balanced 11 points without a 5-card suit! When you rebid in NT, partner will think you have 12-14 and might bid game with 12 points and 3 NT will most certainly go down!

If you open with 12-14 and the bidding goes 1♣ – (P) – 1♥ – (1♠). Do not now bid 1NT with 12-14 points. 1NT should show 18-19 points.

I have even seen players rebid 2NT with 12-14 points after a 2♦ overcall. This is not good. If you pass, partner will find a bid if he has competitive values. If you bid 1NT on 12-14, the next hand may find a penalty double. If you jump to 2NT to show 18-19 and partner is weak, you may go down because they have a good lead.

Must I bid with less than 5 points when partner opens? In my opinion no. It's likely he has a strong hand and he will continue on his own.

Should I bid a 4-card major before a 5-card minor? If you are strong enough for game, always bid your longest suit first. If you have inverted values and the minor is strong, bid it first.

Do I recommend the 2/1 system with a forcing 1NT? No.

About the author. Sven-Åke Bjerregaard was born in Sweden some 67-years' ago but has lived in the Cape Town area since 2011. He has had considerable international success with his regular partner Anders Morath, including a World Cup silver for Seniors. Sven-Åke is married to Gunilla (also a fine bridge-player) and they have two children. Other than bridge, he plays a lot of golf! To improve one's game, he recommends playing a lot against opposition that are better than you are!

COMING DOWN TO THE RIGHT SIZE

by Omar Sharif



A player who pre-empts usually has a singleton somewhere. Should that player be on opening lead and attack a suit he did not bid, more than likely the lead is a singleton. If the player leads the suit in which the pre-empt was made, the singleton is probably in trumps.

In the Women's Team Olympiad, held in Rhodes, North-South for China landed in three no trump and settled for the ten obvious tricks.

The Danish North-South pair bulldozed into seven clubs on the auction shown.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	2♠
3♦	X	P	4♠
P	4♦	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	5NT
P	6♦	P	7♣
P	P	P	

Dir. N	♠ QT92		
Vul. N/S	♥ AKQ2		
	♦ A532		
	♣ 9		
	♠ 75		♠ J643
	♥ JT98		♥ 654
	♦ KQT764		♦ 9
	♣ 8		♣ J7542
		♠ AK8	
		♥ 73	
		♦ J8	
		♣ AKQT632	

Opening lead: ♦K

The contract was against the odds, and the trump break looked fatal. West led the ♦K, taken in dummy. Applying the principle stated in the opening paragraph, declarer ran the nine of trumps successfully. Next, declarer came to hand with the ♠A and cashed the ♣A, only to learn that there was still work to do.

After cashing the ♠K, declarer played off the table's three high hearts, discarding a diamond from hand. A heart was ruffed to reduce declarer's trump length to that of East, and dummy was re-entered with a spade to the queen.

With three tricks to play, declarer was poised with the ♣KQT over East's J76. When a plain suit was led from dummy, it made no difference whether East ruffed high or low — declarer would score the last three tricks regardless.



About the author.

Omar Sharif, born Michel Demetri Shalhoub,, was a famous Egyptian actor who was born in Alexandria, Egypt, on April 10, 1932. He died of a heart attack on July 10, 2015. Sharif began his career as an actor during the 1950s and is probably best known for his roles as Sherif Ali in *'Lawrence of Arabia'* and Yuri Zhivago in *'Doctor Zhivago'*. This talented actor won three Golden Globes and a Caesar Award during his career. In addition to his acting career, he was also extremely successful as a contract bridge player. He was once ranked in the top 50 contract bridge players in the world. He represented the United Arab Republic in the 1964 World Bridge Olympics and was the playing captain of the Egyptian team in the 1968 Olympiad. He founded the Omar Sharif Bridge Circus in 1967 as he wanted to showcase bridge to the rest of the world.



THE PAVLICEK PAGE NO. 3 ~ AMAZING GRACE

Most F L B C players will remember Gracie Gabbai, a charming lady and a clever player. I had the pleasure of partnering her in various events and was amazed at her “table feel” — the ability to make the right decisions at the right time. She had a great flair for the game.

This deal is from a tournament about 10 years ago. Gabbai, South, playing with Bernie Chazen demonstrated perfect technique to earn a top score and win the event.

Dlr: South Vul: Both	♠ A 7 3 2 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ K Q 6										
♠ 8 6 ♥ A K 9 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ J 9 7 4 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 9 4 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ K Q J 6 2 ♣ 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K Q 5 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ A 10 5 3										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

West led the ♣ 4, which gave Gabbai eight sure tricks — four clubs (winning ♣T first), three spades and one diamond — and she set about to establish a ninth by leading a heart. West won the ♥K and returned a club to dummy’s queen, then the ♥J was led to the ace.

West was now aware of the futility in clubs, so he shifted to a diamond to East’s jack. Gabbai could win this and make her contract, but that would be lazy. With

nine tricks you look for ten; with ten look for eleven, etc. The spade suit was the only chance for more, and a squeeze was necessary if that suit did not break 3-3.

Squeeze plays usually require that declarer can win *all but one* of the remaining tricks, so Gabbai ducked the first diamond lead.

East continued with the ♦K, won by the ace. Gabbai then unblocked the ♣K and returned to her hand with a heart to cash the ♣A. East was forced to abandon his spade stopper to keep the ♦Q, and declarer won the rest of the tricks.

About the author.

Richard Pavlicek (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. In 1966 he started to play in bridge tournaments in his spare time. Since then he has won over 400 events and accumulated more than 6,000 master points. He is a Grand Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League and World International Master of the World Bridge Federation. His latest North American win was in 2004 when he and his son Rich became the first father–son partnership to win the Life Master Open Pairs. Pavlicek has written numerous bridge textbooks and lesson materials.



A doctor was concerned about the physical condition of one of his bridge-playing patients, so during a regular check-up visit asked, “Do you get much exercise?”
 “Only when I sit East-West” was the reply.

THE SQUEEZE PLAY

submitted by Deirdre Ingersent



I was leafing through a bridge book recently and found this sentence about Squeeze Play. "The ability to execute a simple squeeze is well within the scope of most competent bridge players" so I thought it could be of interest to our readers!

The writer listed five minimum requirements for this play:

1. You should be able to win all the remaining tricks except one.
2. One opponent must guard at least 2 suits.
3. Your side holds "threat" cards in these two suits.
4. You hold a winner in a third suit - "the squeeze card" - which forces the opponent to make a losing discard.
5. When the squeeze card is led, the opponent does not have an idle card to discard. He has to discard in one of the vital suits.

	♠ AJ	
	♥ ---	
	♦ Q	
	♣ ---	
♠ KQ		♠ 8
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ K		♦ 3
♣ ---		♣ T
	♠ 7	
	♥ 3	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 4	

Example: South leads the 3♥ - the squeeze card. West cannot discard the ♦K as it would set up North's ♦Q. If West discards the

♠Q, North discards the ♦Q and then leads a spade to North's A and J. North held both "threat" cards, the ♦Q and the ♠J. It was therefore necessary for North to discard after the squeezed opponent, West, discarded. Squeeze plays are effective not only for slam contracts but also for games and even part-score efforts.

Then there is a pseudo squeeze! If you are within a trick of your contract and have a long suit to run, do it! Even if it is not a true squeeze situation, defenders are human and can slip up by discarding improperly or believing they are in a true squeeze situation! Clever stuff!

thought!

ENTER ONLINE

THE MEDWIN AND BERKOWITZ TEAMS

PLAY ONLINE

DATES/TIMES: Saturday 4th July 0930
 Sunday 5th July 0930 and 1430
 Monday 6th July 1800

Entries are now open for the above tournament on the SABF and GBU websites. The format will be Swiss teams and the winners of the Medwin and Berkowitz sections will represent Gauteng in the Inter-provincials. To qualify for the Berkowitz, at no time can you field four players whose combined performance indices exceed 1500. Should you have any queries please contact Deirdre Ingersent by WhatsApp on 082 430 4140.

Entry Fee: R 500 per team; entries close on 30th June 2020

The New York Times

UNUSUAL RESULTS IN A RARE BRIDGE DEAL

by Phillip Alder, May 23, 2012

In a previous column both Souths in a knockout match were in 3NT. One declarer **took** 12 tricks and the other **lost** 12 tricks. This caused some e-mail traffic from readers mentioning other unusual results.

Work out what is perhaps highly unusual about the deal shown here.

Dir. N	♠ AK42	
Vul. N/S	♥ 9	
	♦ A653	
	♣ QT86	
♠ QJ98		♠ 753
♥ ---		♥ J75432
♦ KQT94		♦ 8
♣ 9732		♣ A54
	♠ T6	
	♥ AKQT86	
	♦ J72	
	♣ KJ	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♥	P
P	X	P	P
XX	P	2♠	4♥
P	P	P	

North opened one diamond; East made a crazy weak jump overcall. Mel Colchamiro sitting South wanted to double for penalty, but it would have been negative. After passing, North, Colchamiro's ex-wife, Janet, balanced with a takeout double, which South passed, converting it into a penalty

Many a West would have passed, letting his partner stew. And stew he would have, going down six against best defence. But West made an S O S redouble. Two spades could have been beaten by only two tricks if East overtook his diamond eight with dummy's nine when in his hand with the club ace. But South, with two eyes on the vulnerability, jumped to 4♥.

West led the ♦K. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ran the ♥9, and then played a club. East won with his ace and shifted to a spade. South took this in the dummy, led a club to his king, returned to dummy with a spade, discarded a diamond on the ♣Q, and continued with the ♣T. When East ruffed, declarer overruffed and exited with his last diamond to West's queen.

Each player had four cards left. East held the J-7-5-4 of hearts and South, sitting over him, had the A-K-Q-T. Whatever West led, declarer had to win the remainder and collect an overtrick.

What was strange? There were several peculiarities. First, the contract was game in a suit in which an opponent had shown six cards. Second, the play ended with a suicide coup en passant. And third, weirdest of all, East never took a trump trick despite having six. Yes, all right, he could have discarded his spade on the club ten and won the last trick with his heart jack, but he didn't!

About the author.

Phillip Alder was a columnist for The New York Times and a syndicated columnist for 22 years with United Feature Syndicate. His bridge column appeared in over 200 papers worldwide. He has also helped to produce the Daily Bulletins at various WBF Championships and is a member of the WBF Youth Committee. Alder is the Associate Editor of The Bridge World magazine

BY THE NUMBERS

The second in a series of instructive articles by Mel Colchamiro

"THE RULE OF 8"

"Whether or not to overcall in the 2nd seat after a strong 1NT opening by one's Right-Hand Opponent; enter the auction only if Mel's "Rule of 8" has been satisfied!"

1. Add the number of cards in your two longest suits.
2. Compute your Losing Trick Count (L T C), having assumed that a fit with Partner is present.
3. Subtract your L T C from the number of cards in your two longest suits.
4. If the number is one or less, then Pass; if the number is two or more, consider overcalling, but,
5. Finally, one must hold at least six HCP's; only then is Mel's "Rule of 8" ($2+6=8$) satisfied.

"If the subtraction results in a number of 2 or more, then the Player should decide to compete and make an over-call. If the subtracted number is less than 2, then the Player should not make an over-call but should rather defend."

Examples:

The bidding: 1NT - ?;

1. Your hand: **Q8742, K7654, 3, 82**

10 cards – 8 Losers = 2

2 + 5 HCP's = 7 (Insufficient to satisfy "Mel's Rule of 8") so Pass!

2. Your Hand: **A7532, K743, K2, 74**

9 cards – 7 Losers = 2

2 + 10 HCP's = 12 ("Mel's Rule of 8" is satisfied) so using "DONT," bid 2♥

3. Your Hand: **AQ873, K63, 85, K95**

Your number of Losing Tricks is 7. The total number of the cards in the two longest suits equals 8. Subtract 7 from 8 and the number equals 1. The Player, according to the guidelines of the Mel's "Rule of 8," should *not* over-call. The Player holding this hand should actively defend.

4. Your Hand: **K8653, K8754, 85, 4**

In this example, you holds only 6 high-card points, whereas the previous example holds 12 points. The number of Losing Tricks, here, equals 7, as in the first example, but the total number of the cards in the two longest suits equals 10. Subtracting 7 from 10, and the number equals 3. The Player, according to the guidelines of the Mel's "Rule of 8," should actively compete and should, therefore, over-call 2♥ in this instance.

About the author.

Mel Colchamiro describes himself as a professional teacher, player, writer, author of best-selling "How You Can Play Bridge Like an Expert (without having to be one)" and of ACBL Bulletin column "Claim with Colchamiro."; ACBL Bulletin panellist "It's Your Call."; proud 80% game winner in Nov. 2009 – 42% in afternoon, 38% at night!



Four Jewish ladies are playing bridge in a flat in Melrose. Bette sighs and says, "Oy" Freda nods, and then sighs and says: "Oy vey!" Sarah says, "Oy veys mir!" Roz chimes in: "Enough talk about the children already. Let's get back to the game."

SID'S SOLUTION



Here we have a case of the common bridge ailment called finessitis! We often take finesses simply because they are available, instead of

Dir. W	♠ 4	
Vul. None	♥ T85	
	♦ KT954	
	♣ T763	
♠ 876		♠ KQT3
♥ K9643		♥ AJ2
♦ 83		♦ A7
♣ K98		♣ AQJ4
	♠ AJ952	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ QJ62	
	♣ 52	

looking at the whole hand and nothing but the hand! The declarer who made an overtrick spurned the finesses and played the ♥K followed by the ♥A at tricks 2 and 3, dropping the doubleton Queen. He gained 13 IMPs for his side. Why did he choose that line of play?

He reasoned that even if the ♥Q does not drop, he still had a good chance. He would play three rounds of clubs, then a fourth round getting a vital diamond discard. For this to work, clubs must be 3-3 or if 4-2, then the long trump needs to be in the 4-club hand. As a last resort, the ♠A must be onside! But when the ♥Q dropped in two, he simply drew trumps, took the discard on the run of clubs and

eventually claimed 11 tricks.

The other declarer took the heart finesse, and his daydream was rudely interrupted when he lost two spades at the end in addition to a heart and a diamond.



About the Author.

Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000), American, was a very keen bridge player and as the creator of "Peanuts" and its many off shoots, was the most influential cartoonist of his era.



THE NINE TRICK THREE NO TRUMP SHOCK

A fierce and fun hand from the Lederer Memorial Trophy

by Zia Mahmood, 4/11/2010

The Lederer Memorial trophy is an annual weekend event for the country's top teams in which the bridge is often fierce and always fun. They give three prizes in addition to the trophy – for the best bid, best played and best defended hands of the tournament – and I invite you to decide whether any of those should have been awarded for today's deal. When I held the South cards, I opened one diamond and West elected to overcall

Dir. S Vul. EW	♠ KJT954 ♥ 854 ♦ T87 ♣ 3	
♠ A76 ♥ AKJT976 ♦ --- ♣ J95		♠ Q832 ♥ 2 ♦ 942 ♣ AKQ42
	♠ --- ♥ Q3 ♦ AKQT653 ♣ T876	

with a simple one heart. My partner, David Gold, bid one spade and East chose to remain silent. What would you do with my cards at this point?

Probably not what I did. After an opening bid and a response at the one level, a jump to three no trumps is no longer played as showing a strong balanced hand – one rebids 1NT with 15-17 (or 12-14 if playing a strong no trump), 2NT with 18-19, and opens 2NT with 20-22 points. So a jump to 3NT is not needed in a natural sense, and instead shows a long solid suit with guards in the suits not bid by partner. I had the former, and I was willing to pretend that I had the latter, so I jumped to three no trumps. A vulnerable West was unwilling to risk bidding his hearts at the four level if he could not get to dummy to finesse against my presumed heart

queen. East kept his counsel, so three no trumps by South became the final contract.

Do you think we should have won the bidding prize? I maintain that we had in fact beaten par by some distance – East-West can make seven clubs, and East (but not West) can make seven hearts, so we had found a splendid advance sacrifice which for some reason went unnoticed by the judges. Whether or not you find some minor fault with the auction, there was none in the play or the defence. West decided that he might as well lead hearts anyway, rather than try some other suit in an attempt to put partner in to lead through my presumed queen of hearts. On seeing dummy, he brightly continued the suit, switching to clubs only when he had run out of major-suit winners and defeating the contract by nine.

About the Author.

Mir Zia Mahmood (born 7 January 1940) is a Pakistani-American bridge player. He is a World Bridge Federation and ACBL Grand Life Master and reached his highest ranking in April 2011 as the 10th-ranked World Grand Master. Zia was born in Karachi, British India, now Pakistan. He was educated in England from the age of six to twenty-one. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of England and Wales and spent three years running a family business in Pakistan. He is married to Lady Emma, his wife since February 2001. She is the daughter of the 7th Earl of Rosebery. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.



FACT or FICTION?

A man in Sandton filed for divorce because his wife left him a note on the refrigerator which read:

"I have gone to the bridge club.

There'll be a recipe for your dinner at seven o'clock on The Food Channel."

THE GREAT LADIES

I. PETRA MANSELL

A personal memoir by Roger Wilson



Petra Bachman was born in Hamburg, Germany and at the age of 8 she was introduced to Bridge as her parents' *fill-in fourth*; they were competitive and by all accounts she could hold her own even at that tender age. In 1936 the Bachman family immigrated to Durban. In spite of the fact that she could not speak English she matriculated a year later with six distinctions.

Petra's Bridge accomplishments were many. Winner of Club, Provincial and National Championships she reached the highest level with partner Alma Schneider representing her Country in the 1960s and 1970s at 3 World Olympiads winning silver medals on two occasions. After isolation was over in 1994 she played International bridge with her partner Merle Modlin, participating in the Venice Cup and the Olympiads, retiring from representative bridge in 2008. This partnership was highly successful and their absence from the South African Women's team was sorely felt.

I became involved with Petra in the 1970s when she asked me if I would join her in establishing the Wild Coast Bridge Tournament at the Wild Coast Sun which was later held annually. It had a small beginning but with Petra's enthusiasm and energy we were soon able to build up the entries to 150 pairs with a waiting list! This experience was a learning curve for me, in those days we scored by hand and sometimes stayed up all night until the scores balanced. Working with Petra you had to be on your toes at all times; my instructions were "customer's first, get on with it, what are you waiting for". This included the hotel staff and the management as well! I learnt fast. In the early days we were wined and dined by the management and on one occasion we were hosted by the MD from Johannesburg. The next morning he came to me and said "I was fascinated last night; Petra Mansell is a guinea a minute".

Margie and I have been extremely privileged to have played bridge with Petra at home and overseas. We have enjoyed her companionship, her loyalty, and her sound advice. However we were not immune to a lecture when things did not go too well! During our first appearance at the Venice Cup we were amazed that so many international players were in awe of Petra; her reputation had preceded her and they were anxious to meet her. During the team matches it was always comforting to have Petra in the other room. One could always rely on interesting results coming through. Petra received many accolades. She deserved them all!



A BRIDGE TO ETERNITY

The devil appeared before a bridge player and made her an offer. "*I can arrange some things for you,*" the devil said. "*I'll make sure you win every tournament you enter. Your partners will love and worship you; your opponents will fear and respect you and you will live to be a hundred. All I want in return is your husband's soul which will burn in hell for eternity.*" The bridge player thought for a moment. "*OK. I give up ... What's the catch?*"