



# THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

Volume 6, Issue 2

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## FROM THE CHAIR

This is the first GBU Bulletin produced without Stephen Rosenberg. For those of you who have not heard yet, Stephen passed away sadly and very suddenly, in mid-January. He will be hugely missed in the bridge community for his cheerful personality and positive outlook on life.

Stephen told me he enjoyed researching articles for the Bulletin and prided himself on trying to draw up a newsletter with something for everyone. As the GBU Chair, I had many positive phone calls about the Bulletin, thanking us for keeping it going during COVID times.

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*Yours will be a hard act to follow, Stephen.  
Rest in Peace my friend.*

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I would like to welcome Nicky Stephens as our new editor for the Bulletin. Nicky, Robert's sister, is known to many of you as she worked at The Links on Saturday afternoons and often helped with other bridge matters behind the scenes. She plays bridge casually and works as a freelance writer and publisher.

BBO claim that they will shortly be following in their rival's footsteps and will also have a version available where you can both see and hear the other players at your table. Though still playing at home, not at a club, there is now a need to dress as at least your top half will be on display! Also remember to avoid eating at the table and please keep all those annoying background noises, dogs barking, phones ringing, televisions blaring etc. to a minimum.

It seems with COVID still very much around, online bridge will be the method our GBU members have to use to enjoy their favourite card game!



*In Memoriam: Stephen Rosenberg*

May I please remind all members (if you haven't already done so!) to pay in R125 to the GBU. R100 will be forwarded to the SABF, while the GBU will keep R25 so we can continue offering you bridge during this time. Payments can be made to the GBU Account: Nedbank 175 6013 144. Thank you.

Everyone, please keep safe.

Yours in bridge,



*Deirdre Ingersent*

## FROM THE EDITOR

It is not an easy thing to take over a position from someone so very passionate about their vocation, and so beloved by many in the community. I didn't know Stephen as well as many of you, joining the bridge world only a few years ago, but he was always cheerful, helpful and full of anecdotes about the game we all love so much. I hope that with the help and guidance of those more experienced than I am, we can continue his legacy of providing quality articles and news to the GBU members.

As Deirdre mentioned in her introduction, many of you may know me from my days working at The Links Bridge Club, while many more of you likely know my brother, Robert Stephens. I grew up in a family very involved in the world of bridge – both our parents played and Rob joined them as a child. I, on the other hand, was adamant I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole. My dad, whom many of you also knew as Alan or Big Al on BBO, tried numerous times to teach me, but to no avail. It didn't stick until I hit 30 when I discovered the adrenaline rush that comes from bidding a slam and finessing tricks – though I still count my points on my fingers!

I make no claim to being an expert bridge player, but I love the game and I love writing, so I can imagine no greater combination of the two than being given the opportunity to contribute to the GBU by compiling their Bridge Bulletin each month. If nothing else, I may learn a thing or two about the game from those who know its complexities and foibles far better than I could ever hope to.



*Nicky Stephens*

If you have news or articles you'd like to see featured in future issues of The Bridge Bulletin, please send them to me at [nicky@chasingdreamspublishing.com](mailto:nicky@chasingdreamspublishing.com)





## GBU OPEN TEAMS REPORT

by **Deirdre Ingersent**

This event, organised by James Grant on behalf of the Gauteng Bridge Union with Robert Stephens providing the BBO expertise, attracted a high standard entry of 32 teams. There were entries from Cape Town and Durban which of course would not have occurred if the event had been staged live in Johannesburg.

It was the first time this BBO Swiss Format for teams had been used and it was not without problems. In teams, up to six players may be used and the substitution of players for the various matches was hard to put in place and often delayed the start of a match. However, probably of even more importance, it was not possible to see at a glance how your team had fared in any particular match. No final result was published so to assess your overall progress within the event was extremely tricky. Also, it was a bridge marathon with 6 x 10 board matches played on Day 1 and 5 x 12 board matches (when teams were now contesting either the “A” or the “B” event) on Day 2. Longer board matches, 10 or 12, are definitely preferred by the stronger players as 6 or 8 board matches can lead to skewed results!

The Tournament Directors are to be complimented on their informative typed messages as to timing and the start of each round, as well as their handling of situations which arose with player substitutions.

Overall, a great success and thank you to those participants who gave us positive and constructive feedback. Obviously all comments are noted so that next time will be an even better experience!

### Prizes

#### **Saturday Qualifying Round**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Place – 99VPs**

Sven-Ake Bjerregaard - Robert Stephens  
Craig Gower - Alon Apteker

##### **Consolation Prize – 25VPs**

Pamela Hall - Judy Scott  
Modie Naidu and Bonthego



## Sunday "A" Event

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 82VPs

Maureen Narunsky - Michael Alexander  
Kathryn Herz - Eckhard Boehlke

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 67VPs

Hennie Fick - Mabelle Shapiro  
Maureen Harris - Zela Stern

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 66VPs

Sven-Ake Bjerregaard - Robert Stephens  
Craig Gower - Jude Apteker

## Sunday "B" Event

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 77VPs

Chris Child - Ghita Sandler  
Greg Hingle - Di Rosslee

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 71VPs

Janette Schewitz - Harold Bernstein  
Lorraine Weers - Suzette McKerron

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 70VPs

Gavin Kreuiter - Helen Roberts  
Deirdre Ingersent - Mariana Culligan



## NOVICE'S CORNER

### COUNTING CARDS

by Lisa Adamson

One of the most important skills a bridge player must develop is the skill of counting cards. Not only must declarer pay attention to the number of trump cards he holds so as to assess the threat of the presence of trumps in the opponent's hands, but defender, in his effort to defeat the contract, needs to know the number of cards still to be played in each suit.

There are two main methods of card counting, both of which have merit. Practise both of them until you establish a method that best suits.

Consider the trump suit (but this also applies to the other suits)

- ♠ Declarer subtracts his combined holding in trumps from 13, e.g.  $13 - 8 = 5$   
This gives the number of trumps in the opponent's hands. As the trump suit is played, count the number of trumps played by defenders. On the first trick 1–2, on the second 3–4, etc. Once the number after subtraction is reached, he knows he has the remaining trumps.
- ♠ Declarer counts the trumps as they are played. On the first trump trick he counts 1,2,3,4; on the second he counts 5,6,7,8. By keeping an eye on his own trumps, he will know if there is still a trump outstanding.





## THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

Bridge is a game with a large number of rules and conventions, there for a good reason. If most players simply followed them without question they would do pretty well. But bridge is also a game of common sense – something which West did not apply here.

Dir. West	♠ A92
Vul. None	♥ A32
	♦ KQ1092
	♣ 76
♠ Q107	♠ 83
♥ J96	♥ KQ754
♦ AJ	♦ 63
♣ KJ954	♣ Q1082
	♠ KJ654
	♥ 108
	♦ 8754
	♣ A3

East	South	West	North
		1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	1NT	3♠
P	4♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: 6♥

Bidding:

South was guilty of some serious overbidding when he carried on to 4♠.

Play:

Declarer took the ace of hearts in dummy, and taking note of the 1NT bid by West, which promised a spade stopper, he played A-K of spades, foregoing the finesse. He then played a diamond to the jack and king, followed by another diamond to West's ace.

West, a keen student of the game, but a player who tended to follow rules blindly without proper thought, immediately cash his master queen of spades, drawing two of the opponents' trumps, and then continued with a heart, taken by East, who switched to a club. But it was too late - declarer put up the ace and ran the remaining diamonds, pitching his losing club, to make 4♠.

"We never got our club trick" said East, somewhat upset by the proceedings.

"Yes I know" replied West, "declarer discarded it on the diamonds before we had a chance to get it."

"Why did you cash the queen of spades after winning the ace of diamonds?" continued East. "If you refrain from playing it and continue a heart, I will win, and knowing you started with three cards in hearts (you led the six and then played the 9) I would switch to a club. Then, when declarer tries to run the diamonds, you ruff in early and we get that club trick."

"You are quite right," said West, "but I was taught that as a defender one should always play the last trump if it is a winner, especially if one is getting two of their trumps for one of ours."

West was right in theory, but there are times when it is correct to withhold a winning trump, and this hand is a case in point. The moment a defender releases the last trump, declarer is now in a position to run off a side suit uninterrupted. So West should hang on to the queen of spades and switch to a club instead.

## 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 [jeffshirl@telkomsa.net](mailto:jeffshirl@telkomsa.net), or call him on 082 551 2526.



## PUZZLES

### BRIDGE NONSENSE!

by Deirdre Ingersent

The following list (24 in all) contains names of various conventions used in bridge, but the letters are all jumbled up. Can you sort them out and find the one that doesn't belong as well?

1. AAYTMNS
2. OOKBCDAWL
3. RREEBG
4. AEICSMLH
5. YBJOAC
6. NTHALOMI
7. PTLEICTPLEA
8. HEESSTPN
9. HBLLEONSE
10. YNRLEFNA
11. TIFNL
12. STUGO
13. TTTSROUC
14. YRRDU
15. DYLNA
16. XASTA
17. WTCRUOSHR
18. SSSIW
19. LLHNTAAVI
20. ROAST
21. MESTEGH
22. GREENB
23. NNJBMIEA
24. YCNNEKME

(Solutions on Page 9)

## SUDOKU

Every row, column and 3x3 square has to contain the numbers 1 to 9 with no repeats.

5	6		3	2				
2	4	1	8	6				
7				5	8		6	
4	5				7	3		
			4					
	6	7				1	8	
3		4	5					7
			6	9	3	8	4	
		8		7	1		2	

	8			3				
	2	3						6
	6			9		4	3	
			6	5				4
		4	9	1	3			
3			8	7				
	1	7		8			9	
5						8	4	
			5				2	





## SID'S QUIZ

by Sid Ismail

Here is a hand from a recent Newmoon pairs tourney on BBO:

<table border="1"> <tr><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td></tr> </table>	D	17	<b>N</b> lettalotta ♠ Q ♥ K1092 ♦ KJ53 ♣ K643	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>X</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣	X	P	1♠	P	2♥	P	3♣	P	3NT	P	P	P		
D																								
17																								
W	N	E	S																					
	1♣	X	P																					
1♠	P	2♥	P																					
3♣	P	3NT	P																					
P	P																							
<b>W</b> JenJen49 ♠ KJ876 ♥ 74 ♦ 8 ♣ AQJ72	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣K</td></tr> <tr><td>♣2</td><td>♣5</td></tr> <tr><td>♣9</td></tr> </table>	♣K	♣2	♣5	♣9	<b>E</b> FREKMAN1 ♠ A42 ♥ AQJ3 ♦ Q964 ♣ 105																		
♣K																								
♣2	♣5																							
♣9																								
	<b>S</b> Annatjie ♠ 10953 ♥ 865 ♦ A1072 ♣ 98	3NT E      NS: 1 EW: 0																						

The bidding and play to trick 1 is shown above. (South led the 9♣).

You can look at all 4 hands for this one (still tough!)

### QUIZ:

1. What continuation beats 3NT?
2. How could the contract have been made?

As the TD, I hop to and fro to monitor tables, to ensure mostly time usage. I stopped at this table, clicked "GIB" and was told by the built-in double-dummy solver that the continuation at trick 2 was the ONLY card to beat this contract. Imagine my surprise when North chose exactly that card and beat it!

North is Aletta Robertson of Hermanus, playing with her sister Annette. Kudos to her!



## SOLUTION:

1. The continuation of precisely the  $\heartsuit J$  beats it! Nothing else.
2. Win the  $\clubsuit A$  at trick 1, and finesse a heart straight away.

In all probability you will make 10 tricks after  $\spadesuit Q$  drops.

Join Newmoon on Wednesdays at 14h00 where we play set hands - you will get expert commentary on the hands - which alone is worth two lessons from your pro! How to join: [www.elsid.co.za](http://www.elsid.co.za) then go to the BBO page.



## TIDBITS

WHICH ONE IS MORE COMPLICATED FOR COMPUTERS, CHESS, GO, OR BRIDGE?

Luis Argerich, Professor of Artificial Intelligence. at UNTREF (2016-present) says:

For computers, Go is harder than chess because the branching factor is a lot higher. The huge difference is that both chess and Go are complete information games while bridge is incomplete. This means that with enough computer power you can solve chess or Go in the same way we have solved tic-tac-toe, just analyze all the possible games and find the best answer to each move.

Bridge, on the other hand, is an incomplete information game. There's a very beautiful theorem that says that games with incomplete information can be np-complete even if the number of possible games is a fixed number. In down-to-earth terms this means that incomplete information games are usually more complex than complete information games. Read more on [Quora](https://www.quora.com/Quora).



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### BRIDGE NONSENSE!

- |                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. STAYMAN     | 9. LEBENSOHL | 17. CROWHURST |
| 2. BLACKWOOD   | 10. FLANNERY | 18. SWISS     |
| 3. GERBER      | 11. FLINT    | 19. LAVINTHAL |
| 4. MICHAELS    | 12. OGUST    | 20. ASTRO     |
| 5. JACOBY      | 13. TRUSCOTT | 21. GHESTEM   |
| 6. HAMILTON    | 14. DRURY    | 22. BERGEN    |
| 7. CAPPELLETTI | 15. LANDY    | 23. BENJAMIN  |
| 8. STEPHENS*   | 16. TEXAS    | 24. MCKENNEY  |

\* Not a convention! No. 8 is the odd one out.

