



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

First of all, I hope everyone is still keeping safe from COVID, and I know some of our older members (and there are plenty of us 60 years and older in the GBU) have had at least one vaccination. However, no immediate guarantee as we all know. So for the immediate future, BBO and RealBridge must be how we get our bridge fix!

Now three unrelated snippets:

Is bridge good for your brain?

Bridge is one of the best ways to practise the “use it or lose it” advice for maintaining mental sharpness as you age. Research has shown that regular bridge playing improves reasoning skills and both long and short term memory.

What I know better bridge players than me do:

- Think all the time!
- Concentrate all the time!
- Double for penalties at the right times!

Have you ever wondered about all those abbreviations in BBO and what they really mean?

- ns – new suit or not sure?
- ucb – undisguised cue bid?
- npp – no problem partner or no passing partner?
- F1 – forcing for one round or (expletive) impossible?
- sp – sorry partner or stupid partner?

And I'm sure there are many more!

Yours in bridge,



Deirdre Ingersent

If you have news or articles you'd like to see featured in future issues of The Bridge Bulletin, please send them to the editor at nicky@chasingdreamspublishing.com



STOP PRESS

by **Deirdre Ingersent**

Well done to all the Gauteng based bridge players who entered the recent South African Bridge Congress Pairs Event. It was a high standard attracting a record entry of 90 pairs!

Special congratulations to the following players:

CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1st – Neville Eber and Chris Bosenberg **60.75%** (Half Gauteng as Chris is now in Cape Town!)

3rd – Robert Stephens and Mark Oliff **56.99%** (Half Gauteng again as Mark is a Durban player)

CONGRESS:

2nd – Nicky Bateman and Tas Nestoridis **56.58%**

PLATE:

1st – Diana Balkin and Jeff Sapire **57.75%**

3rd – Peta Balderson and Jenny Gautschi **56.06%**

PRESIDENT:

2nd – Jenny Matisonn and Rita Gawron **55.52%**



THE NOVICE'S CORNER

by **Lisa Adamson**

A GOOD 10 OR A BAD 10?

This note may give those who read March's contribution on suit quality another means of evaluating your hand.

Dir. South	♠ 85		
Vul. N-S	♥ AJ74		
	♦ K3		
	♣ AJ1097		
♠ Q976		♠ K3	
♥ 10986		♥ Q	
♦ 42		♦ AQJ98765	
♣ 852		♣ Q3	
	♠ AJ1042		
	♥ K532		
	♦ 10		
	♣ K64		

West	North	East	South
P	2♣	2♦	1♠
P	4♥	5♦	2♥
P	Dbl	All Pass	P

Opening Lead: 2♥

Bidding and Play:

In an International team of four match between Poland and France, the French East tried the slow approach, bidding 2D and then 5D. With 1 spade, 1 heart and 2 clubs to lose, the defence had to stop declarer getting to dummy with the

queen of spades, so that the diamond finesse couldn't be taken. Declarer ruffed the 2nd heart and played the three of spades, but South did very well by rising with the ace, and continuing hearts. Now a diamond had to be lost, for 3 off and -500.

At the other table I thought the Polish East did much better. After the same start; 1S (pass) 2C - he jumped immediately to 5D, which was also doubled.

The choice at the first table, was, in my opinion, a poor one. You are going to end up having to bid 5D anyway, with an 8 card suit, and at favourable vul on top of it, so why mess around? All that the low level fancy footwork does is allow the opponents to exchange more (valuable) information, so there is virtually nothing to be gained by trying this slow approach.

The French defence wasn't up to par either. The defence lead and continued clubs, declarer ruffing the 3rd round. Now he put South on the spot by leading the king of spades. Concerned that this was a singleton, declarer grabbed it and switched to hearts. But now there was an entry to dummy with the queen of spades to take the diamond finesse. So, only 300 to France here, and a 5 imp gain to Poland.

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, or call him on 082 551 2526.



ACES IN LIFE, ACES IN BRIDGE

by **Nicolette Stephens**

It's a rare thing to encounter dynamic personalities that aren't accomplished across many fields – charisma tends to go hand-in-hand with intelligence. Of course, the opposite may also be true, with higher IQs tending towards social awkwardness. Just look at the series, *The Big Bang Theory* for some classic examples of the stereotypical genius. But we're looking at the former today: people who were famous by virtue of their careers in acting, politics, sports and more – but had one thing in common with the rest of us: their love of bridge.



Swedish Prime Minister Per Albin Hansson (1885-1946)

had a circle of friends, jokingly referred to as the "peralbinians", who visited him every Thursday to eat pea soup, drink hot *Punsch* and play bridge.



Billionaire investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett

is well-known as a die-hard player. He's been quoted as saying, "Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players."



Hall of Fame tennis star, Martina Navratilova

said "Bridge is more than just a card game. It's a cerebral sport. Bridge teaches you logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration and partnership skills."



Radiohead Frontman Thom Yorke

and fellow band members have been known to while away the hours on tour by settling down for several hands of bridge. Fellow musician Mick Jagger reportedly hired partners to tour with him!

The list of celebs who were also known for their love of the game goes on and is too long to list here, but one famous celebrity whom some of our local players had the opportunity to meet and play with at bridge tournaments, was Omar Sharif. Famous for his role in *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago*, among other films, Sharif's acting career very nearly ended due to his love and passion for the game of bridge.

As he said, "There was a point when I became too keen. It was obsessive. I would play all the tournaments. I would not make certain films if they interfered with my bridge schedule. I dreamt about cards. I was driven by the competition. I was good at it and I wanted to be perfect. But bridge is like golf; you can never achieve perfection. You get better, but because it is a game of partnership there is no way you can get there. You need to perfect a system between you and your partner."

A keen reminder that—at least in the game we all love so much—a good partnership is better than a solo expert.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

West / None
6NT by North

	North		East
West	♠ K		♠ 10 6 4 2
♠ A	♥ A K Q 4	N	♥ —
♥ J 9 8 6	♦ —	W	♦ —
♦ —	♣ —	E	♣ Q
♣ —		S	
	South		
	♠ —		
	♥ 10 7 2		
	♦ —		
	♣ 7 6		

To make the hand, we will wish for the 4 hearts and the ♠ A to be in West's hand.

After winning the lead with the ♣ J, we will run five diamonds then cash ♣ K - ♣ A. 8 Tricks have been played. Poor West has to come down to 4 hearts and the blank ♠ A, as per the diagram, with North to play.

We will now exit with the ♠ K to West, after discarding a club from South.

West has to concede 4 hearts now. A neat strip and endplay materialized.

At the table, declarer played for a 3-3 split in hearts. She went -1 losing a heart and the top spade, in a valiant effort.

CHESS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bishop to F3 (Bf3) | |
| 2. Knight to E3 (Ne3) | Bishop takes Knight E3 (Bxe3) |
| 3. Pawn to G3 (g3) | Queen takes G3 Pawn, Check (Qxg3+) |
| 4. H2 Pawn takes Queen G3 (hxg3) | Rook to H1, Checkmate (Rh1#) |

