

# THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Same old, same old! It's still BBO and RealBridge, no live bridge yet in our affiliated clubs. It's a wait and see game. It would appear that COVID infections are decreasing, but are the statistics correct?

Sadly, all of us know someone personally who has succumbed to COVID.

Our Annual General Meeting of the GBU was held on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> March via the Zoom meeting platform and I can report that your current committee was re-elected and are happy to continue serving bridge in these difficult times:

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*Chair – Deirdre Ingersent*

*Vice Chair – Joe Israeli-Zindel*

*Secretary – James Grant*

*Treasurer – Tor Meyer*

*General Member – Jackie Solovei*

*General Member – Nicolette Stephens (Elected 2021)*

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My Chairman's report is reproduced here so all GBU members may know what happened last year.

Yours in bridge,



*Deirdre Ingersent*



## FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received from you all following last month's edition. Since learning bridge, I've been amused and delighted by the abrupt shift that can occur in players as they transition between the social aspect (the friendly pre-game chatter and catch-ups during tea), and the competitive streak that lights a holy fire in their eyes when their partner returns a losing card, or—heaven forbid—commits the ultimate sin of a revoke.

Being competitive by nature, I recognise that reaction in myself on occasion, and work hard to temper it with the knowledge that if we all played a perfect game, it wouldn't be much fun, would it? What a pity then that with the move to online bridge, the innocent, unthinking mistakes are now impossible to make.

I will admit, and I think many feel the same, I look forward to being able to play at a club with people again. A computer screen (while undeniably useful right now) just doesn't have the same personality as a partner's surreptitious eyeroll when you overtrump their winning trick.



*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 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

by **Deirdre Ingersent**

Before I start on this report, I am sure some of you are wondering what happened to the 2020 AGM and my report then. Well, COVID did! And at the time, none of us thought it was going to continue so long and we thought we could hold a live AGM, as we always do, later on in the year. But no, not going to happen.

So, 2020, nothing really different happened. We held our regular competitions and I had some of my Saturday Morning Seminars which proved popular and were published in our GBU Newsletter. Once COVID became a household name, not only in South Africa, but throughout the world, the whole face of bridge was changed. With live bridge no longer possible, BBO came into its own. Casual bridge started up and then The Links began their regular tournaments of 21 boards on every day of the week!

Robert Stephens is to be thanked for his hard work in this department. He was patient getting our bridge players online, and released regular instructions via WhatsApp messages, mostly advising people on changes, payment etc. Robert was thorough in his work and it is largely through his efforts that bridge, the game we all love, has been played in these difficult times. Many smaller clubs were

able to start their own competitions on BBO. Undoubtedly, many of our players just enjoy a social game on BBO, or Teams, which can be setup relatively easily by anyone. In fact, Teams has enjoyed a new lease on life thanks to BBO. We, as administrators of the game, were involved in teaching many of our members how to use BBO.

At this point, I would like to thank my Committee for their hard work during this past year, especially James, Tor, Stephen and Jackie. James and I have had many phone calls and discussed a myriad of related bridge issues. James' contribution to bridge in South Africa during 2020, and it is ongoing, has been huge. He has done much research into BBO, and now RealBridge, a similar online experience which more accurately simulates one's club as you can see and speak to your partner and opponents. His passion for the game is infectious and I thank him for helping me along the BBO road!

Tor has handled the finances competently, as always, and been busy with sorting out money from events we have held and subscriptions. Jackie has proposed ideas to enlarge the BBO opportunities available. Stephen continued with the Newsletter which was much appreciated. With more people opening up their computers to play BBO, the Newsletter was being more widely read. Joe had a quieter year as sponsorship has been forced to take a backseat. We realise money is not so flush in COVID times with investments not as good and some people forced to take a pay cut or being retrenched.

And now to the sad part. We have lost many people during this time. Most known perhaps, Gill Brown and Stephen Rosenberg. Gill's Northerns Club was legendary, a well-organised setup operating with several sections, lovely atmosphere and a fantastic tea, will be sorely missed and Gill's contribution to bridge over so many years was famous, her act irreplaceable (but when live bridge restarts so will this club!)

Then Stephen, always so cheerful and likeable, known as the regular Saturday afternoon TD at Orchards and for our newsletter which was always brimful of interesting articles researched so lovingly by Stephen. We will keep the newsletter going but it will be a hard act to follow. May Their Dear Souls Rest in Peace.

Also, Peter Maybury, Paul van der Wal, Lindsey Greer, Denyse Hoffman, Marion Gordon, Jennifer Van Dongen, Anne Routier, and I'm sure others whom I haven't heard about personally. They will all be greatly missed in our bridge community. May all Rest in Peace.

Sadly, Orchards as a club and a bridge venue is no longer. It was decided by Lorna, Betty, Lily and Debbie that it would be an unwise decision to renew their lease when it was due recently. To keep Orchards going with no income and yet expenditure every month was an unreasonable expense. With so much uncertainty as to when live bridge could recommence, it seemed the only option. However, there is an online option and the Northerns Bridge Club will be continued by Lorna Speller when live bridge is allowed.

This year, the GBU have already held a very successful Open Teams Event which attracted a large entry of 32 teams from all around the country! The one advantage of BBO is that with no travel costs

or accommodation needed, these kinds of events are attracting more participants. We will follow this up with a one day Open Pairs Event in the not too distant future.

Till we meet again—see you online. Keep playing your bridge and enjoying it!



## NOVICE'S CORNER

### SUIT QUALITY

by Lisa Adamson

“Why did I go down?” is a plaintive cry often heard at the bridge table.

In my tutor group I often review the bidding to see how the final contract was arrived at. When the Overcaller has won the contract, my question is “Did you apply the suit quality test?” to which the answer is often, “Oh no, I forgot!”

As a beginner one is confronted with so many numbers that things become confusing. Some players find the way out of the dilemma is to memorise and take as gospel some of the numbers taught.

One example is the overcall. As second bidder one is taught to make an overcall of an opening bid with 9+ High Card Points or Honour Card Points (HCP) and preferably a six-card suit, or at least a five-card suit.<sup>1</sup>

But what if the suit is J 10 8 7 5? Or Q 9 7 5 4? As opposed to A Q 9 7 5 or K Q 8 7 3? The purpose of an overcall is to be competitive, but also to give partner an indication for a lead. The overcall should indicate to partner that you have first or second round control in that suit.

This is where the Suit Quality Test comes in.

For an overcall, the **quality** of the suit you bid is more important than the strength of the hand. To assess the quality of your suit, add the number of cards in your long suit and the number of Honours you hold in that suit:

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$$\text{Length} + \text{Honours} = \text{Suit Quality}$$

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At the 1 level this must come to at least 7, for an overcall at the 2 level it should be at least 8, and so on (i.e. the suit quality must be equal to the number of tricks one is bidding. So 7 = 6 + 1 (1 Level); 8 = 6 + 2 (2 level)) Count the Jack or 10 only if they are supported by a Queen or higher.

Be careful about your suit's quality when your side is **vulnerable**.

Be prudent when overcalling at the 2 level. Your HCP should be 14 – 15 and your suit quality must be 8.





anything would do, but what about the 4-2 breaks? If either defender had AQJx then nothing would help, so he had to consider a doubleton honour in either hand. With three honours missing, A-Q-J, the chances of a defender having started with Qx or Jx, as opposed to Ax, was twice as likely. Accordingly, declarer lead the king of hearts, which smothered the jack, losing only three trump tricks in the process. Dummy won the spade return, discarded his losing spade on the king of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond to continue with the nine of hearts, forcing out the queen. He won the club return in hand and drew the last trump with the ten, notching up a well-earned ten tricks.

**About the Author.**

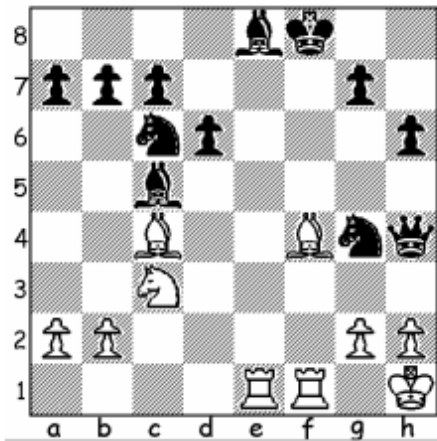
Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He teaches all levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. To find out more about his well-structured and informative lessons, contact him on [jeffshirl@telkomsa.net](mailto:jeffshirl@telkomsa.net), or call him on 082 551 2526.



**PUZZLES**

**CHESS**

Find mate in one move. White to move.



**SUDOKU**

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


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



# SID'S QUIZ

by Sid Ismail

From the Cavendish:

	♠ A 8 7 6		
	♥ A Q 10 9 3		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ A 5		
♠ J 10 3 2		♠ 5 4	
♥ 8 5 4		♥ J 7 6 2	
♦ 8 7 2		♦ A 9 6 4	
♣ Q 9 2		♣ 10 8 3	
	♠ K Q 9		
	♥ K		
	♦ K J 5 3		
	♣ K J 7 6 4		

This hand was played by the Dutch pair Verhees and van Prooijen, who led most of the way in the Pairs.

They reached 6NT and we kibitzers can see that the spades do not break 3-3, nor does the ♥J drop in 3. Furthermore, the club finesse goes off. Yet 6NT made, and there was nothing the opponents could do to stop it! Witness -

Played from the North side, East leads a small diamond, away from the ace! The ♦10 wins and a diamond is returned. East grabs the ace and switches to a baby spade.

## QUIZ:

1. Can you see how 6NT was made?

## SOLUTION:

Declarer won the ♠Q, cashed the ♥K and hopped over to the ♠A and tried the ♥A - ♥Q but no knave appeared. He came back to hand with the ♠K (no 3-3 break) then played the ♦J. This was the position now -

D 16	N North	W N E S
	♠ A876 ♥ AQ1093 ♦ Q10 ♣ A5	Contract = 6NT by N
W West	♦K	E East
♠ J1032 ♥ 854 ♦ 872 ♣ Q92		♠ 54 ♥ J762 ♦ A964 ♣ 1083
	S South	6NT N NS: 8 EW: 1
	♠ KQ9 ♥ K ♦ KJ53 ♣ KJ764	

Declarer now advanced the ♦K in this 4-card ending.

**West** has to retain his spade else the ♠8 makes, so he discards a club;

**Dummy** now discards the spade, having done it's job;

**East** feels the pinch now! He has to retain the heart guard so he too has to discard a club.

Declarer played the ♣A - ♣K in quick succession, not caring who had the club queen!

+990 gave them +278 IMPs (large IMP Pairs competition)

A perfect textbook double-squeeze materialised.

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.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### CHESS

Bishop to D6, Checkmate. (Bxd6#)

