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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

I am writing this on the eve of the most serious lockdown South Africa has ever seen, and we are obviously facing very challenging times ahead, so let me start by saying I hope everyone will keep safe and be OK in the next 21 days.

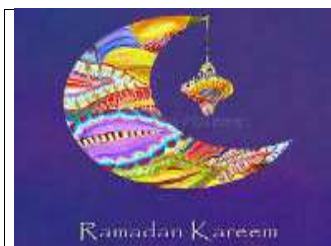
In amongst all the helpful advice which has been issued concerning the Corona Virus and the amusing little cartoons and funny videos and humorous words, I received this little gem. "I wish it need not have happened in my time" said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." by J. R. R. Tolkien (who, by the way, was born in Bloemfontein!). When I thought about this quote and applied it to bridge, I came up with the following: first, it's a chance for those bridge players who don't know BBO to learn, and for those who are already knowledgeable about it, to play more online and enter tournaments there. At this point I must give a big vote of thanks to both Robert Stephens for his help in assisting bridge players to play online and setting up some events, and Sid Ismail for organising online tournaments.

Secondly, it's a chance for those of us who have bridge books on our bookshelves to read them and get ourselves fully acquainted with bidding, play of cards and defence. All of us like to think we play the cards well, but that only takes up about 25% of our game (our partner having the other 25%), but what about our defence which takes up the other 50%? How many times do we concede 11 tricks in a 4 spades contract which should only make 10? Was it the lead? Did we finesse our partner's only decent card for declarer? And so on, and so on.

Thirdly, it's a chance to play with our own pack of cards. Take a recent hand record (you are sure to find a few lying around!) and lay out some of the more interesting hands like the slams, or the ones with competitive bidding. For myself I rarely see Minor Suit slams, either stopping in 5C or 5D or 3NT when 6C or 6D is the contract. Some food for thought I trust! This month of April is full of festivals of significance to our various members; I, along with my Committee, wish all of you and your families a month of joy, peace, especially good health and, hopefully, some bridge!



Deirdre Ingersent



Yours in bridge, *Deirdre Ingersent*

SID'S QUIZ

"HOW TO DEFEND THIS?"

It's a double-dummy problem this month where you can look at all four hands, but you must assume best declarer play and best defense.

Dir. W	♠ QJ93	
Vul. None	♥ 8432	
	♦ 954	
	♣ Q8	
♠ K		♠ A42
♥ KQJ97		♥ J65
♦ T872		♦ KJ6
♣ T95		♣ KJ72
	♠ T8765	
	♥ A	
	♦ AQ3	
	♣ A643	

This hand was played at Benoni Northerns a while ago. After a hotly contested auction (we bid up to 3♥), Ian Lowdon bought the contract in 3♣. I led the ♥K. Ian won and promptly played a small club up. My partner won and punched another heart. Ian ruffed this and in the fullness of time, he ruffed 2 clubs on the table and made 9 tricks without breathing hard. He lost 2



Sid Ismail

trumps (A-K) the ♠K at trick two and a diamond at the end. We then had a look at the *traveller*, and it clearly states that 8 tricks is the limit in spades! We obviously mis-defended.

QUIZ: How should we have defended? [Have a go at it and then compare your answer with Sid's Solution on Page 11.](#)

"IT'S ONLY A GAME"

by Charles M. Schulz



About the Author.

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



Charles Schulz

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

"QUANTITATIVE BIDS"

by Jeff Sapire

Good bridge players are always on the lookout for those extra little chances in play and defence. And when it comes to the bidding it's much the same - one sometimes has to have good visualisation to find the best bid.

Dir. N Vul. NS	♠ Q84 ♥ AKT4 ♦ A2 ♣ QJ95	
♠ 532 ♥ 987 ♦ J63 ♣ 8643		♠ A976 ♥ 6 ♦ KT8754 ♣ 72
	♠ KJT ♥ QJ532 ♦ Q9 ♣ AKT	

West	North	East	South
			1NT
P	4NT	P	6NT
P	P	P	

The opening lead was the ♦3.

North's 4NT was not Blackwood – it was quantitative, asking partner to go to slam with a maximum. After the 15-17 opening bid, this is clearly the best action - slam won't depend on how many aces South has, but rather on whether or not he has a maximum. Here, South judged that his sixteen points **plus** a five-card suit made the hand worth going on. A further issue on this particular hand is that as responder, one cannot combine Stayman with quantitative.

opener shows the other major, then 4NT is Blackwood – so it's better to jump to 4NT directly, perhaps foregoing a possible major suit fit.

The responses to a quantitative 4NT are very simple; Pass with a minimum (15); bid slam with a maximum (17) and bid 5NT with 'in-between' values (16), leaving it to partner to do some simple arithmetic.

All experts play that one cannot use 4NT Blackwood to ask for aces when partner's last bid was in NT. 2NT – 4NT; 1D-1S; 1NT-4NT; 1H-1S; all these are quantitative auctions.

In a recent Teams event, the fate of 6NT, played by South, depended on the lead. Where the three of diamonds was led, declarer shrugged his shoulders and played low. East took the king, and returned a diamond, giving declarer only 10 tricks, for 2 down. On any other lead, declarer could win and knock out the ace of spades, making an easy twelve tricks.

At the other table South found the winning bid. Over 4NT he jumped to 6H, showing a maximum and surely five-card heart suit (It couldn't be six hearts, because he would have opened 1H, and one wouldn't jump to the six level with just a four-card suit). North read the situation and passed 6H, which was cold. On a diamond lead - take the ace, draw trumps, discard the queen of diamonds on the fourth club and lose just one spade trick!

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 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Jeff Sapire

In this year of 2020, designated Holocaust Remembrance Year, here is a poignant and nostalgic article from bridge s.a. number 4 of May-June 1990 by **Rixi Marcus** (Austrian/British, 1910-1992) entitled

"I RECALL EVENTS OF FIFTY (NOW EIGHTY! ed.) YEARS' AGO"

In that last summer of peace (1938. ed.), the European bridge championships took place at The Hague. If we still had a nation to call our own, the Austrian ladies' team, with which I had already won three European titles and one world title, would have been favourites. But, like some of the others, I had been forced to flee from Vienna in 1938 when the Nazi troops marched in.

That year, the photographs of our famous team had appeared in the brochure for the European championships in Oslo. But, like me, they had lost the country whose representatives they would have been. Hitler's followers had no time for bridge; in fact, it was as good as *verboten!* So, in the 1938 championships after the French ladies had won the title, their captain, the aristocratic Mme de Montaigne, sent me a gracious cable: "*Grâce à Hitler nous avons gagné*" ("Thanks to Hitler, we won." Ed.)

Fortunately I had a haven from the Nazis as my parents had moved from Germany to England in 1938. Here I received a warm welcome in bridge circles, but in the spring of 1939, I went back to Europe, taking my mother to a clinic in the South of France. On our return journey, the Blue Train stopped at Marseilles and I bought a copy of *France-Soir* which had pictures of weeping women in Prague on its front page; the Wehrmacht was on the march again! Paris was like the Tower of Babel, with refugees from all over Europe desperately seeking help. I met many friends from Vienna as they waited for visas and passage to a "safe" country. Some were luckier than others. I even found time for bridge and won a ladies' contest, and a *Boucheron* wristwatch, with a French champion Mlle de Bolmartin.

Back in London, I soon settled into the old routine: bridge at the club, dinner in Soho with friends, a roof over my head with my parents, my little girl and my younger sister. Our home became a meeting place for new refugees; they brought us news and we helped them as much as possible, but I had to sack an Austrian maidservant whom we suspected of being a spy. During the war we continued to play the game we loved, and it was a great comfort when the bombs and gunfire of the Blitz banished all hope of sleep. I did my bit of



Rixi Marcus

fire-watching and working as a secretary at the British Red Cross. On days off, I even played poker with some refugees to keep my French up to scratch!

Now, here's a hand from the quarter-final of the Gold Cup, a knockout contest for teams-of-four, which was played at Bexhill-on-Sea in the summer of 1939. My team consisted of Standish Booker and Peter Elmassion and Gertie Brunner, my former team-mate

Dir. S	♠ J8742	
Vul. NS	♥ —	
	♦ AT63	
	♣ AQ62	
♠ 52		♠ QT6
♥ Q7654		♥ JT92
♦ Q42		♦ K975
♣ J43		♣ T5
	♠ AK9	
	♥ AK83	
	♦ J8	
	♣ KT98	

Markus/Brunner					Bach/Dodds			
W	N	E	S		W	N	E	S
			1NT					1♠
P	2♠	P	3♠		P	1♠	P	2♥
P	4♦	P	4♠		P	4♠	P	4NT
P	6♠	P	P		P	5NT	P	6♠
P					P	P	P	

from the Austrian national team. Or opponents were the team led by Mudie Bach, with Leslie Dodds, Jack Tottenham and Pat Cotter, the latter a world croquet champion! I sat North, as did Mudie Bach in the other room. Here's the hand and the bidding in both rooms:

Our bidding playing the Austrian system is shown above. The 4♦ bid is a Culbertson asking bid. My only hope was to drop the ♠Q, but a heart was led, and I had to lose one trump trick and one diamond trick. In the other room, Dodds and Bach bid as shown, the 5NT being the old Culbertson ace inquiry. Our teammates led a small trump and the slam could not be beaten. Mudie Bach's team lost in the final to a team led by Richard Lederer, a Czech who had fought for Britain in the first World War. The rest of his team consisted of the Tarlo brothers, Louis and Joel (who later went on to play for Spain) and Jack James.

Commented [SR1]:

IT'S FOR THE PLAYERS THE GBU'S FREE SEMINARS

Deirdre Ingersent's initiative of offering free bridge tuition to the members continued with sessions by Jeff Sapire in March and James Grant in April, the latter having to be postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



The March session, entitled "Negative Doubles", attracted almost 60 participants to BRIDGE@ORCHARDS, despite numerous counter attractions. Jeff was in excellent form, thoroughly prepared and presenting a structured lesson, pitched at just the right level. Each teaching-point was founded on and illustrated by actual hands and bidding sequences. He emphasized the key learning points for 'negative doubles' which are used only by the opener's partner – the responder.

1. Point requirements

- * to 'negative double' at the one level – at least 5
- * to 'negative double' at the two level – at least 8
- * to 'negative double' at the three level – at least 10.

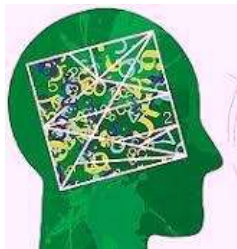
2. Suit showing:

- * if only one major has been shown prior to the 'negative double', it promises at least 4 of the other major
- * if both majors have been shown prior to the 'negative double', it promises at least 4 of each minor
- * if both minors have been shown prior to the 'negative double', it becomes a bit murky, but promises at least 4 of one or both majors.

The lesson ended with advice on completing the auction; that is, how the opener responds to the 'negative double' and what the 'doubler' does thereafter. Comprehensive notes were then handed out to all participants. A Saturday morning very well spent!

Stephen Rosenberg

A MATHEMATICAL BRIDGE PUZZLE



Below are 10 bridge related sentences.

1. The odds of a Yarborough occurring are 1827 to 1
2. The number of cards in a pack
3. The total number of honour cards in a pack.
4. The number of tricks needed to make a contract of 2 spades.
5. The amount of red points needed to become a National Life Master
6. The number of players required to play a game of bridge
7. The points value of a King
8. The number of cards in a suit
9. The number of cards needed in a suit for a traditional 3 pre-emptive opening bid
10. The point count needed for a traditional 2 Clubs opening hand.

Starting with Sentence 1 (the answer is 1827) and using all the answers to the other sentences, apply 3 minus, 2 plus, 2 multiplication and 2 division signs to arrive at the answer of 3237. To start you off the first step is take the start figure and minus the number of red points needed to become a National Life Master. Only another 8 steps to work out! Submit your answer by email to stephen@valuersinc.co.za before 30th April, showing your workings, to stand a chance to win a R250 Woolworths voucher. This may look difficult but in the event of more than one correct entry a draw will be made to determine the winner!

Deirdre Ingersent

WHAT'S IN A NAME? 'COPENHAGEN'



The Copenhagen Convention is a conventional overcall which shows a two-suited hand. It was first devised by John Trelde and Gert Lenk, both of Copenhagen, Denmark. While it is rarely used in North America (where Michaels cuebids are most popular), it is fairly popular in Europe, especially Denmark.

The requirement for a bid in the Copenhagen Convention is a two-suited hand with at least five cards in each suit and typically an opening hand. Point count requirements vary, but it is commonly agreed that an overcall using this convention is constructive and should be made on hands that hold the prospect of winning the auction. When made on

very weak hands, the chances are the opponents will win the auction and will have been warned about the unbalanced holding, leading to games that would not have been bid otherwise. Given that a bid using the Copenhagen Convention is forcing for one round, most partnerships apply no upper limit to its high card strength.

To use the convention, when the opponents make a one level opening, you make one of three bids. To show the bottom two unbid suits, bid 2 NT. To show the top and bottom unbid suits, bid 3♣. To show the top two unbid suits, bid 3♦. If the opponents have bid two suits, both at the one level, then the only overcall is 2 NT, which shows the two unbid suits.

As opposed to Michaels cuebids, the 3♣ and 3♦ jump overcalls aren't available as natural bids. Bids at the two level (barring 2 NT) are natural. The Copenhagen convention is more precise in terms of uniquely defining the specific suits denoted than standard Michaels cuebids. However, the lowest level the hand can be played at is the three level, and rarely will a nine-card trump suit fit be found. This goes against the Law of Total Tricks, which states the three level should have at least a nine card fit.

**HAVE
A
LAUGH
ON US**



This is an extract from Alan Simmonds' article in **bridge s.a.** number 12 of May-July 1992 covering the Fedlife 39th Bridge Championship Pairs' event at the Wilderness Hotel and entitled

THE FINAL FOUR

They came down to the wire locked at +115. After three qualifying rounds involving 78 hands and another 80 torture-racked finals deals, Val Bloom and Maureen Holroyd were neck-and-neck with Olympiadians Tim Cope and Henry Mansell, the latter pair watching the scores helplessly as the two young (*sic!*) Johannesburg women ate into their lead.

Each pair was to sit East-West in the final round. The kibitzers broke all the rules slipping from table to table. The buzz was audible. The previous year, Olympiadians Neville Eber and Gordon Driver lost the Pairs' final by one point! Would it happen again?

After both pairs scored only 6 out of 20 on Hand 81, Hand 82 turned the tide for Cope and Mansell:



Maureen Holroyd



Val Bloom

Dir. E Vul. Both	♠ A864 ♥ 43 ♦ 974 ♣ AK43	
♠ J53 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ85 ♣ JT975		♠ KQT7 ♥ Q9876 ♦ T ♣ Q82
	♠ 92 ♥ AKJT5 ♦ KJ632 ♣ 6	

At the Cope-Mansell table, Mansell sitting East passed, and South opened 1♥. North responded one 1♠ and South bid 2♦. North not unnaturally tried 2NT and South warned with 3♦. Whether North would have tried 3NT is debatable, but Cope gave him no chance with **Double**. North thought hard but decided not to bid on with either 3NT or a **Redouble**. South

thought that he had only to play reasonably carefully against any lead to ensure nine tricks, probably 10. After all, what can West make except his trump tricks? Whatever is led by West, declarer finesses a heart and goes about his business. But against Cope, South lost his way, cashed the ♥A and then tried some kind of a crossruff for -1 and -200 and 14/20 for Cope and Mansell!

At the other table, North-South did get to 3NT, a contract not without chances. West, Holroyd, led a club and when the smoke had cleared, they were +100 and 12/20 to drop slightly off the pace.

However, Board 83 proved one hurdle too many for the Johannesburg pair. At Cope's table they collected +500 against poor judgement by their opponents and got a joint top with 19/20. Bloom and Holdroyd judged not to bid the lucky 4♠ in a competitive auction and allowed their opponents to stay in 4♦ and make it, collecting only 1/20 giving Cope and Mansell a direct win of 18 and the end of the road for the challengers!

Dir. S Vul. None	♠ K ♥ 932 ♦ KQ97652 ♣ J3	
♠ QJT65 ♥ QT4 ♦ A ♣ Q875		♠ AT76 ♥ QT6 ♦ 874 ♣ JT
	♠ 984 ♥ K65 ♦ JT ♣ AK942	



Tim Cope



Henry Mansell

in 1992!

Cope (E), showing superb

judgement, with Mansell (W) accurately describing his meagre hand reached the spade game. South, viewing his miserable hand decided that 5♦ would be a cheap save. It wasn't! A spade, two hearts, the ♦A and a trump promotion meant +500 and certain victory. To crown their victory, Cope and Mansell out-scored

Bloom and Holroyd +500 to + 200 on the final board of the event to run out winners by 134 IMPs to 114.

WORLD TEAMS 2017

by Mark Horton

Despite my best efforts, by the time the last match of the Round Robin arrives we are still in contention and need only 14 or 16 from our last match to be sure of advancing. The early deals are promising when I pick up:

♠ QT4
♥ Q9743
♦ AKT8
♣ 5

With only our side vulnerable, the player on my right passes and with a nod to the modern style I open 1♥. My partner responds 2NT which we play as four-card support with at least the values for game. With my modest collection I beat a hasty retreat to 4♥ which ends proceedings, leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
		P	1♥
P	2NT	P	4♥
P	P	P	

♠ AJ
♥ A652
♦ J5
♣ JT863

West leads the five of spades and dummy proves to be little better than my hand. It might be right to go up with the ace of spades and run the jack of diamonds, but as West's lead suggests he has an honour I play the jack and am pleased to see East follow with the three. I can't avoid the loss of a club, and apart from the trump suit I have to deal with the third round of spades. If the queen of diamonds is onside I might not lose a trick in that suit. The odds play in the trump suit is to cash the ace and lead low towards the queen, which offers a 71.78% chance of losing only one trick. It's conceivable I should play trumps now but suppose West has started with ♥KJT. Three rounds of hearts will leave me poorly placed. Postponing any decision in trumps I exit from dummy with a club and West wins with the nine and plays a second spade. I win with dummy's ace, ruff a club, ruff a spade and ruff a second club, on which West follows with the ace.

I have only lost one trick so far, so the question is how best to proceed from here? Eventually deciding it is time to play a round of trumps, I cross to the ace of hearts and West follows with the eight and East the ten. I advance the jack of diamonds but when East follows impassively with the two I go up with the ace, and cash the king East playing the nine, and ruff a diamond. Disaster strikes when East overruffs and cashes the king of hearts. That leaves me with a diamond loser, so I am one down.

This was the full deal:

Dir. E	♠ AJ	
Vul. Both	♥ A652	
	♦ J5	
	♣ JT863	
♠ K965		♠ 8732
♥ 8		♥ KJT
♦ Q7643		♦ 92
♣ A92		♣ KQ74
	♠ QT4	
	♥ Q9743	
	♦ AKT8	
	♣ 5	

Did you spot declarer's error? The mistake was to cash the ace of hearts. After winning with dummy's ace of spades declarer ruffs a club, ruffs a spade and ruffs a club. If declarer then plays three rounds of diamonds, East is welcome to overruff, but cannot then play a heart and declarer will be able to cash the ace of hearts and then cross ruff, East scoring only the ♥K. Declarer could also have considered running the ♦8 rather than ruffing it.

In the other room no-one could find an opening bid, so we lost 3 IMPs instead of gaining 12, and that was enough to cost us a spot in the quarterfinals.



Mark Horton

About the Author

Mark Horton, British journalist and expert player, was Editor of Bridge Magazine 1995-2017 and now edits the free online publication *A New Bridge Magazine*. At one time, his business cards were inscribed: *Have Cards will Travel*, but following the death of his most famous sponsor, the Rabbi Leonard Helman, he has tended to concentrate on his writing exploits. In 2018 he had five books published!

THE PAVLICEK PAGE

NO. 1 - "SCHNEIDERED"

Some years ago I was in San Francisco for the Team Trials and visited with Gary Schneider, a good friend who had moved there from Fort Lauderdale. We took a few days to see Alcatraz, scenic Marin County, and the Zoo. And speaking of zoos, back to bridge.

Dir: South
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 6 5
♥ 10 9 8 6 5
♦ A J
♣ 2

♠ K 10 3
♥ K 2
♦ Q 10 8 3
♣ A J 9 3

N
W E
S

♠ A 8 4
♥ J 3
♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 5

♠ J 2
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ K 2
♣ K Q 10 8 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
P	2♦	P	2♥
P	2♠	P	4♥
P	P	P	P

Schneider was South on this 1986 deal at the FLBC. He opened an off-shape 1 NT, a reasonable bid having an honour in each doubleton. This caused West to huddle momentarily — a clue that Schneider would use later. North's 2♦ was a Jacoby transfer and South obligingly bid 2♥. North next bid 2♠ to show 5-5 in the majors and South jumped to game with his great heart fit.

West led the ♣ A and shifted to a diamond, won by dummy's jack. The normal play to avoid a loser in the trump suit is to finesse the queen; but Schneider felt West had the king from his reluctant pass over 1 NT. Accordingly, he embarked on a clever campaign to induce an error. He cashed the ♥ A, crossed to the ♦ A, and led another heart; jack; queen; king.

West was on lead in an uncomfortable situation. Looking at all four hands it is obvious to lead a spade and defeat the contract; but West did not know his partner held the ♠ A. Clearly, a diamond lead would yield a ruff and discard, so West returned a "harmless" club. This indeed would have been harmless if declarer held a balanced hand; but the hidden five-card club suit provided *four* discards for North's spades. I guess you could say that West was *schneidered* on this one.

About the author.

Richard Pavlicek (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. Pavlicek began to play bridge in 1964 at the age of 18 while stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany, with the US Army. Upon returning to Florida in 1966, he started to play in bridge tournaments in his spare time.^[2] Since then he has won over 400 events and accumulated more than 6,000 masterpoints. He is a Grand Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and World International Master of the World Bridge Federation (WBF).

Pavlicek has won 11 North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting three straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982–84. In 1990, his team mounted a come-from-behind finish to win it again. He won the prestigious Vanderbilt Trophy in 1983, 1986, and most recently in 1995 playing with a team that was arranged the day before the event. He won the inaugural 1973 Grand National Teams tournament and won the 1997 rendition too; one of his 1973 teammates was Billy Seamon and he played in 1997 with Billy's son Michael. 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. He and William S. Root wrote *Modern Bridge Conventions*, published in 1981 and still a best-seller in the bridge marketplace.

He is also a bridge columnist and composer of bridge puzzles, double-dummy problems and other novelties, which have appeared in a variety of publications. Since 1987, he has written the analysis booklet for the continent-wide ACBL's Instant Match Point Games.



Richard Pavlicek

MY SON THE GENIUS

by Zia Mahmood (February 2003)



Zia and Zain

If you don't see me winning any tournaments for a while, don't be surprised. It's not that I am becoming senile (that too) but I am too busy playing with my 1½-year old son, Zain. Which means that at times when I should be reading the system notes, I am gleefully playing soccer in the park.

Naturally the important question looming is, "Should I ever encourage him to learn bridge?" My gut reaction is no. I wouldn't like him to spend his life as I did, albeit with great passion, in the pursuit of a one-suit squeeze.

And what if the dream I had the other night was a look into the future? In it my son (aged around ten) returned home from a bridge lesson; he was furious! "The teacher told me I wasn't any good," he complained.

"What happened?" I asked. "I held ♥KQ107 against a 4♣ contract; partner led the ♥9, I played the Queen and declarer won the Ace. Later when I got in, I played the ♥10, and declarer won his stiff jack."

"That does sound wrong; you know the rule about cashing winners in

suit contracts."

"Of course, but it was you who taught me that there always are exceptions. This was my hand as East: ♠KQ6 ♥KQ107 ♦K105 ♣A87.

The bidding was not complicated:

West	North	East	South
		Zain	
		1♥	X
2♥	P	P	4♣
P	P	P	

If I played the ♥K and another heart, declarer would ruff and play a low spade to dummy's eight. I would now be endplayed, so it seemed the only chance was to sacrifice a heart trick. But exiting with the ♥7 wouldn't work either. Declarer could win, lead a spade to dummy's eight and my queen. Now if I played the ♥10, declarer would discard a diamond and I would still have to give dummy an entry.

Partner led ♥9 to this dummy: ♠J85 ♥32 ♦Q64 ♣KQ105. I played the queen and declarer won the Ace. South now played the ♣3, partner the ♣2 and I took the Ace. I was about to play the ♥K when I stopped to think. It seemed the whole hand looked something like this (declarer likely to hold seven spades and one club):

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

No, the only card to defeat the contract was the ♥10. That way I could later play the ♥7 and declarer could not afford to discard, as now partner could win the trick." That's

when the teacher got angry. But I could see

my son was correct. What a defence! Brilliant! Experts could look at all four hands and never see the position. And then I woke up!

(The hand above is taken from Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey's wonderful book *Adventures in Card Play*. Zia found it so beautiful that he wanted to share it with the world! Ed.)

About the author.

Pakistani-born, American-educated Mir Zia Mahmood is a Pakistani-American professional bridge player. He is a World Bridge Federation and American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master as well as a ranked World Grand Master. Zia is married to Lady Emma, the daughter of the 7th Earl of Rosebery, his wife since February 2001. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.



Zia Mahmood

I am fortunate to have been loaned ten or so of the original "The Bridge Bulletin" published some 40 years' ago, by the SABF, which sold for 30c each and carried advertising! Here's an article by **Marcus Kleinberg** from no. 5-8 dated June-September 1978, and entitled

RAND DAILY MAIL 1978

The holders, Bertha Cohen, Rita Jacobson, Alan Simmonds, Hymie Osie and Leon Sapire, retained this top trophy with a convincing victory in the final over the Mischa Martinovic team which included Jimmy Gowans, Gunther and Gerda Goslar, Kurt Brandweiner, Mark Madeyski and Frank Cillie by 109 IMPs to 46 in a 48-board match. The final was obviously one-sided with the holders taking an early lead, increasing it throughout to win comfortably. Here is a clever defence by Osie-Simmonds which brought plenty of points:



1977 WINNERS (left to right):

Back: Elfrieda Sender, Alan Simmonds,
Gerda Goslar, Hymie Osie
Front: Rita Jacobson, Bertha Cohen (captain)

Dir. W	♠ AKQ7	
Vul. None	♥ A3	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ T9876	
♠ J32		♠ T864
♥ Q6		♥ KJ96
♦ KT76		♦ 853
♣ AKQ4		♣ 53
	♠ 95	
	♥ T8754	
	♦ J942	
	♣ J2	

Here's the bidding: Osie was sitting North, Simmonds South; Cillie was West and Brandweiner sat East. East's prospects in 1♥X did not look too bad, but when the smoke had cleared, declarer had been held to just **three** tricks for a penalty of 700!

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	X	1♥	P

Simmonds led a spade and Osie played four rounds of that suit, Simmonds ditching two clubs. Declarer ruffed the fourth spade, and then tried a heart to the Queen in dummy, but North produced the Ace and whipped back a club for his partner to ruff. A diamond through the King gave North the ♦AQ, which was followed by another club for South to ruff, and then a diamond for North's ruff. Another club completed East's discomfort!

SID'S SOLUTION

You need to lead the ♠K! When declarer ducks a club, partner will win and promptly play Ace and another trump. If declarer is restricted to ruffing one club only, the defence will prevail.

Sorry there was no Bulletin in March – all too busy with Congress and Covid-19! Hence, a couple of extra pages in this one to make up for it.

My utmost admiration goes to Rob Stephens and Sid Ismail for their efforts in ensuring that we can (most of us) continue playing bridge, albeit online. It is such fun; the fun can be compounded by each player having a friend, a husband or a wife *kibbitzing* and helping or hindering their bidding and play!

If you haven't tried online bridge yet, I urge you to do so! In the first instance, send a WhatsApp to Rob on 072 431 6599 or Sid on 082 411 9900 telling them you want to join their online bridge tournaments. They'll send you the "how to do it". Once you get started, you'll find it quite addictive!

Stephen Rosenberg, editor

GBU CALENDAR

MAY 2020

(ASSUMING ALL GOES WELL!)

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						LBC
						Orch Pairs
					Worker's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	JBC Pairs	NBC Pairs	NBC Pairs	BNBC Pairs	FMB	LBC
	Orch Pairs	Helen's Club	BBC Pairs	Riv Pairs		Orch Pairs
		BNBC Pairs	Wed Pairs			
			Riv Pairs			Gentle Tournament at the Links
			ABC Pairs			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	JBC Mixed	NBC Pairs	NBC Pairs	BNBC Pairs	FMB	LBC
	Orch Pairs	Helen's Club	BBC Pairs	Riv Pairs		Orch Pairs
		BNBC Pairs	Wed Pairs			
			Riv Pairs			
			ABC Pairs			
				SAWBA	SAWBA	SAWBA
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	JBC Mixed	NBC Pairs	NBC Pairs	BNBC Pairs	FMB	LBC
	Orch Pairs	Helen's Club	BBC Pairs	Riv Pairs		Orch Pairs
		BNBC Pairs	Wed Pairs			
			Riv Pairs			Gentle Tournament at the Links
			ABC Pairs			
SAWBA	SAWBA	SAWBA	SAWBA	SAWBA	SAWBA	Eid
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	JBC Teams 5	NBC Pairs	NBC Pairs	BNBC Pairs	FMB	LBC
	Orch Pairs	Helen's Club	BBC Pairs	Riv Pairs		Orch Pairs
			Wed Pairs			
			Riv Pairs			
Eid			ABC Pairs			



SUE AND SALLY "CLEAR AS MUD"

Sue: Do you play M-U-D?
 Sally: No, never heard of it.
 Sue: Then what do you lead from three-small?
 Sally: Fourth best, I guess.