



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

There seems to be a glimmer of hope at the end of the tunnel with regards to COVID with fewer cases recorded daily. However, a death toll of 96,289 is a high figure and vigilance and caution still need to be exercised. Most of the bridge playing community will now have become eligible for their booster vaccination shot which, according to doctors, will help enormously in the event of one contracting COVID.

More heartening news is the return of live bridge in some quarters. The Links opened up on Saturday afternoon, 5th February with 44 players attending and all reporting an enjoyable experience. My friends reported how great it was to see people live again and use real bidding boxes! This number will grow as more people venture back to live bridge.

Betty Ravenscroft has started a live club under the N.B.C banner using Ferndale Bowling Club as the venue. Scoring is done with the aid of cellphones. Benoni Northerns is scheduled to start live on Thursday, 3rd March. Rivonia is continuing with their online event and The Links is still running all their BBO time slots. I know some smaller clubs (not in the GBU fold!) have been operating for a while and of course social live sets, either four or teams of eight are happening too. Please advise me of any other "live" bridge events as I know not everyone has access to a computer or I-Pad to play online, or has tried it and found it to be no substitute for the real thing.

To clarify matters as regards subscription fees for 2022: R100 is the SABF Fee and R25 the GBU Fee, payable if playing live at a club or BBO. It can be paid directly to the GBU where our efficient treasurer will see that the R100 portion goes to the SABF coffers. Alternatively it can be paid into a Club account along with their subscription. Then the Club Manager will allocate it to the right place. For this year, only one amount of R25 is all the GBU requires, even if you play at more than one venue.

To me it seems that live bridge and BBO will exist side-by-side. The face of bridge is changing with evening bridge probably not going to function at all. With curfew happening in the last two years, players have become accustomed to staying at home more now in the evenings.

Please continue to keep safe and advise me of any interesting happenings, or what you would like to read in the newsletter, either via cell: 082 430 4140 or via email: dingersent51@gmail.com.

Yours in bridge,



Deirdre Ingersent

STOP PRESS!

After writing this, I received an email advising that three weekday live sessions will re-open at The Links:

Tuesday Mornings

Wednesday Afternoons

Friday Mornings



THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by **Jeff Sapire**

One of the most enjoyable aspects of bridge is bidding a hand well to a great contract, and then playing it accurately. In golfing terms, it would be like hitting a beautiful drive, then an excellent 2nd close to the pin, and then holing the putt for a birdie.

Dir: West
Vul: None

♠ K73	♠ 854
♥ AJ7	♥ KQ93
♦ K108432	♦ J975
♣ A	♣ 75
♠ 96	♠ AQJ102
♥ 1062	♥ 854
♦ 6	♦ AQ
♣ KQ109843	♣ J62

South	West	North	East
	3♣	3♦	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♦	P
5NT	P	7♠	All Pass
Opening Lead: K♣			

Bidding:

Over north's 3D overall south's 3S was forward-going and forcing. 4C was a control bid agreeing spades, as were 4D and 4H. 4NT was Keycard Blackwood (for spades) and 5D showed 0 or 3 key cards. 5NT asked for kings and north

made an excellent decision to jump to 7 spades on the basis of the long diamond suit; with south having shown the diamond ace with the 4D control bid, he expected the suit to produce five or six tricks.

Play:



NOVICE'S CORNER

Winners and Guaranteed Winners

by Lisa Adamson

Playing No Trump

<p>♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ 8 6 5 2 ♣ A 4</p>	<p>♠ J 7 5 3 2 ♥ 10 4 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ K 8 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 10px auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ K Q ♣ Q J 10 7 6 2</p>
<p>♠ 9 6 ♥ A J 9 8 2 ♦ J 10 9 4 ♣ 9 5</p>		

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
		1♣	P
1♦ ¹	P	2♣ ²	P
2♠ ³	P	2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

- 1 bid up the line
- 2 long suit
- 3 2nd 4 card suit

Lead 8♥

Rosebud and Bud were East-West playing in 3NT on this deal.

Bud won the lead with the K♥, and then happily counted his winners. Three spades, one heart, one diamond and five clubs.

So he played out three rounds of spades, discarding a club. Next he played the A♣ and 4♣. North took his K♣, and played his J♠ and fifth spade, A♦, and exited with 10♥ to South's A♥. Down 1.

“But I had 10 tricks in the bag,” Bud lamented afterwards.

“Yes dear,” responded Rosebud sweetly, “but remember our teacher told us there is a difference between winners and guaranteed winners. You only had 4 guaranteed winners and you must develop the rest!”

Once Bud won the first trick in hand he must consider the following:

Three spade tricks are guaranteed, so leave them to play at the end.

His longest holding is clubs, and this is where he must start to develop extra tricks. So 2♣ to A♣, return the 4♣, won by North's K♣. Now no matter what North plays next, he makes his contract: 3 spades, 2 hearts, a diamond and 4 clubs. 10 tricks.

Tips for playing No Trump:

- Do not play the suit they have attacked, you are short in it, they are long.
- Count your sure winners, in this case 3 spade tricks. Do not play them, save them for last.
- Decide what trick(s) you need to lose and lose them as soon as possible (here the Club suit is very strong, missing only the king. So try to get the opposition to play the King.) But you must win in the short hand first (i.e. A♣ then play 4♣).
- Make sure you can win a trick in hand to get back to the clubs, here K♠, and that is why you do not play spades first.
- When it is immaterial whether you win in hand or in Dummy, win in the short holding so that you have a lead to the long holding in the other hand.

About the Author

Lisa Adamson has been teaching bridge since 2017, concentrating mainly on beginners and helping “rusty” players find their way into the game again. Many of these players now belong to clubs and are playing confidently on BBO and RealBridge.



SID'S QUIZ

by Sid Ismail

This hand comes from a “challenge” on BBO where my brother Shafik in the USA and I have weekly contests.

I gained 1 IMP on this hand...

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> D </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 5 </div>		N Robot ♠ AQ ♥ 83 ♦ QJ103 ♣ K9653	<table border="1" style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>D</td> <td>D</td> <td>D</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	3♥	P	3♠	P	4NT	P	5♦	P	6♠	D	D	D	D
W	N	E	S																								
	1♣	P	1♠																								
P	1NT	P	3♥																								
P	3♠	P	4NT																								
P	5♦	P	6♠																								
D	D	D	D																								
W Robot ♠ 6 ♥ Q7542 ♦ A652 ♣ J42		E Robot ♠ 7532 ♥ 109 ♦ 9874 ♣ Q108																									
	S newmoon ♠ KJ10984 ♥ AKJ6 ♦ K ♣ A7																										
		6♠ S	NS: 0 EW: 0																								

The contract in both rooms was 6♠.

In my room this was the play sequence –

- Tr 1: H4 H3 H9 HJ
- Tr 2: spade to ace
- Tr 3: SQ – overtaken
- Tr 4: SJ (discard C3)
- Tr 5: S10 (discard C5)
- Tr 6: DK from hand but this was ducked!

The position is as follows, with South to play.

QUIZ: Can you make all 13 now?

D 5		N Robot ♠ AQ ♥ 83 ♦ QJ103 ♣ K9653	W N E S 1♣ P 1♠ P 1♠ 1NT P 3♥ P 3♥ 3♠ P 4NT P 4NT 5♦ P 6♠ P 6♠
W Robot ♠ 6 ♥ Q7542 ♦ A652 ♣ J42	♦ 3 ♦ 2 ♦ 9 ♦ K	E Robot ♠ 7532 ♥ 109 ♦ 9874 ♣ Q108	
	S newmoon ♠ KJ10984 ♥ AKJ6 ♦ K ♣ A7		6♠ S NS: 6 EW: 0

About the Author:

Sid Ismail runs pairs tournaments on BBO every Wednesday and Friday at 14h00. For more information, contact him on 082 411 9900 or visit www.elsid.co.za. SABF Masterpoints can be earned!



ACTIVE OR PASSIVE DEFENCE – PART 2

Researched by **Deirdre Ingersent**

This month we look at Part 2 in Active and Passive Defence. For Part 1, download the January issue of The Bridge Bulletin on our website.

Which card should I save?

This question comes up more than one would think especially when declarer is running a long suit against you and you have that nasty decision to make – what cards should I save and what can I discard? Cooperation with your partner will often supply the answer.

1. COUNTING SIGNALS given by partner (High-Low showing he has an even number of cards in that suit and Low-High indicating an odd number of cards) in the suit declarer is leading can help you figure out how many cards declarer holds in that suit.
2. INFORMATIVE DISCARDS. A tricky thing! Traditionally High-Low signals in suits in which partner has strength and Low-High (up the line) in suits he does not control. However, often one is reluctant to discard a high card in a suit in which you have interest, preferring to discard

low cards in suits in which one is not interested. This NEGATIVE inference suggests strength or interest in the suit in which he has made NO discards.

Remember the Bidding

Paying careful attention to the bidding can often give you a good count of the hand. Knowing how many cards declarer has in each suit will often help you decide which cards to save. A good tip is to retain as many cards as dummy has in a suit (if dummy is reachable) and/or to keep as many cards as declarer has in a suit. Even if your holding is as low as 9 4 3 2, it may be advisable to hold onto this suit if you know declarer has four cards in it too. The layout might be like this:

	DUMMY	
PARTNER	J75	YOU
Q10	DECLARER	9432
	AK86	

Your nine now becomes a 4th round winner.

Another little sign – in a suit contract if declarer did not ruff a loser in dummy

when he could have done so, he probably doesn't have a loser in that suit. Therefore, you could safely discard your high cards in that suit.

Counting declarer's high card points and relating them to the bidding can help. If he bid 1NT at the start (15-17) and so far you have counted 13 points coming out of his hand then that missing king you want to know about is most likely in his possession. Also true would be this: if declarer responding to his partner's opening bid said 1NT and has already shown up with 8/9 points, the missing king or ace is in your partner's hand.

Which Card Should I Return?

Partner has led a suit and you have won the trick and want to return that suit. Partner usually wants to know how many cards you originally held in that suit so as to avoid giving declarer a trick.

With an original holding of four cards, return the lowest:

	DUMMY	
PARTNER	75	YOU
KJ93	DECLARER	A862
	Q104	

In the play when declarer plays 10, J wins trick, then K is played and Q is felled.

With an original holding of three cards, return the highest:

PARTNER KJ93	DUMMY 75	YOU A82
	DECLARER Q1064	

Same play, 8 by you, 10 by declarer and then J winning trick. Don't follow with the King as then declarer's Queen becomes a trick.



RISK AND REWARD AT TEAMS

Submitted by **Peta Balderson**

One of the things we had drummed into us when we first played in high-level tournaments, was to bid all borderline games but particularly vulnerable games. The reward of making a vulnerable game is worth the risk of going off. This is certainly sage advice but as the hand below shows, it's a question of where the border of borderline is.

This is a board from a match played a while ago by 10 international teams:

Dir: East Vul: E/W	♠ A108 ♥ 54 ♦ K93 ♣ AJ975	
♠ 97 ♥ AKJ1082 ♦ Q6 ♣ KQ2	♠ KJ64 ♥ Q97 ♦ J1084 ♣ 63	
	♠ Q532 ♥ 63 ♦ A752 ♣ 1084	

North	East	South	West
	P	P	1♥
P	2♥	P	2NT*
P	3♥	All Pass	

From the bidding it is unlikely that N/S have a big Spade fit, so that would not have played a part in the decision by West to jump to 4. (Often jumps have a two-way benefit: 1] the chance of making and 2] keeping the opps from finding a fit).

We didn't take all the tricks that we could have ☺ but then only one N/S pair did and one let them make 10 tricks (imagine the reward there!)

At the other table our partner jumped to 4♥s and went 1 down. A swing of 6 IMPS.

The risk was taken with no reward this time! Would it have hurt to make the enquiry, for a flat board? If 10 tricks were there for the taking, the swing would have been 10 IMPS in our favour.

7/10 of the West players in this match did not take the risk. What would you do?

About the Author:

Peta Balderson is a Life Master bridge player who has represented South Africa internationally.



JOIN US ON BBO TEAMS

A decorative border of various playing cards, including diamonds, clubs, spades, hearts, and squares, arranged in a curved path around the top and right sides of the text.

GOOD NEWS **TEAM PLAYERS**

- ♥ We will continue on Monday afternoon under the **GBU** name
- ♥ The only requirement is that all players are members of **SABF**
- ♥ Registration will open on Saturday **19/02/2022**
Register as before on whats app
- ♥ **Free** as it has been for the last 2 years
- ♥ For further info contact **Jackie 082 449 9444**





PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

At tricks 7 and 8, play off your two trumps, discarding two diamonds from the table.

Tr 9: CA. Tr 10: Club to King.

On this trick West gets squeezed in H / D!

There are just 3 cards left now and West has to retain the DA else the queen makes. He thus discards a heart.

Your H6 now becomes the 13th trick!

FOUR LETTER WORDS CHALLENGE:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Call | 2. Card | 3. Club |
| 4. Deal | 5. East | 6. Exit |
| 7. Five | 8. Four | 9. Game |
| 10. Hand | 11. High | 12. Jack |
| 13. Jump | 14. King | 15. Lead |
| 16. Long | 17. Nine | 18. Open |
| 19. Pass | 20. Play | 21. Ruff |
| 22. Slam | 23. Suit | 24. Void |
| 25. Weak | 26. West | |

