



# THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2022

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair

The Bridge Lounge

Novice's Corner

Bridge Trivia

Monaco Cavendish Pairs

Active or Passive Defence

The Golden Rule

Puzzle Solutions

## FROM THE CHAIR

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water (a misquote from *Jaws*) a 4<sup>th</sup> COVID wave hit us! I am sure we all follow the daily news about COVID and it does seem that vaccination is the way to go. Although it may not protect us from getting the latest variant, Omicron, it will help to fight it and survive. However, with bridge players understandably nervous, opening our live bridge clubs has been put on hold for the moment. It is important for bridge organisers to see what happens when the holiday season is over and also what government regulations are in force. We realise that many of our bridge players do not have access to online bridge so as soon as it is considered safe to do so, live clubs will start up. I do believe the face of Gauteng bridge will be changed forever.

Many aficionados of online bridge have indicated they will continue with this when clubs are open. Nighttime bridge is under threat – players are used to being at home in the evenings these days. But the social aspect of bridge is an important feature for many, I hear that if I meet bridge players while shopping or if we chat on the phone.

It is with sadness I report that my Vice Chair, Joe Israeli-Zindel, has passed away. His bridge knowledge and wise advice will be greatly missed. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Shulla and his family. Unfortunately I am aware more players have passed on than I know about and I am fearful that when clubs reopen several familiar faces will not be there. Each player is important to us so please accept our sympathy and sincere condolences if someone close to you has passed on and not been acknowledged by us.

Besides playing BBO in events and a lot of social outings I use other things they offer. Just log on and see what there is to do. I've also opened many bridge books and have found it beneficial to reread certain chapters about specific bridge matters. No harm in revising or perhaps adding to one's repertoire with a new convention.

Let's keep enjoying this card game which we are all addicted to!

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 [nickystephens86@gmail.com](mailto:nickystephens86@gmail.com)

**ANNUAL SUBS**  
*due!*

Make Payment to:  
Nedbank Account  
#1756013144  
Reference: Name &  
Membership Number

**SABF R100**

**GBU R25**

**R125 TOTAL FOR 2022!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The graphic features a black background with a large, gold-outlined spade symbol in the center. To the left of the spade is a gold-outlined club symbol, and to the right is a red heart symbol. At the bottom left is a red diamond symbol. The text is arranged around the spade, with payment instructions inside it. The total amount and a thank-you message are at the bottom. Green and red horizontal bars highlight the payment amounts for SABF and GBU respectively.



# THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

Sooner or later, all the plays one reads about in the books turn up at the table. Today's theme, the trump promotion, is a fairly common one, which the expert player knows all about.

Dir: East  
Vul: None

♠ 75	♠ 10
♥ Q104	♥ A832
♦ K643	♦ AQJ85
♣ AJ32	♣ 1054
♠ K94	♠ 10
♥ KJ975	♥ A832
♦ 97	♦ AQJ85
♣ Q98	♣ 1054
♠	♠
AQJ8632	
♥ 6	
♦ 102	
♣ K76	

South	West	North	East
			1♦
1♠	2♥	2NT	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 9♦

Play:

East won the first trick with the jack and cashed the ace of diamonds. He now made the key play of cashing the ace of hearts before continuing diamonds. Declarer ruffed with the jack of spades, west overruffed with the king, and that was

that. Declarer won the return and drew trumps, making his contract.

If West discards instead, his SK9x will produce a second defensive trick. What makes this play so easy is that as a defender you do not have to see around corners – the rule is simple. When you have a natural trump trick, don't overuff, unless of course it's urgent and you have to do something else which cannot wait. If South's spades were a solid AQJ10xx then West would always make only his one trump trick, so nothing is lost.

Note, also, that east's defence was very good. If he had played the third diamond BEFORE cashing the ace of hearts, declarer could have discarded his losing heart instead, thus avoiding the trump promotion.

Here are three further examples of the more common 'DO NOT OVERUFF' situations. (I recommend setting the cards out, or writing them down and ticking them off, to understand them clearly).

You have AJ doubleton sitting over KQ1098xx.

You have A10x sitting over KQJ98xx.

You have Q8x, declarer AJ107xx and partner K9.

In the three situations above, if declarer ruffs high, and you are also void in the played suit, DON'T OVERUFF, and you will find you make an extra trick.









I remember being a constant kibitzer of this event and this hand stood out as one of the most impressive I have seen in top-flight bridge. N-S incidentally finished in top 4 spots in the Teams and are no fools. E-W won the prize for the best mixed pair.

First, a word about the bidding.

D 20	N HURD	W N E S
	♠ A82 ♥ 5 ♦ AKJ102 ♣ Q652	1♣ 1♦ X P 2♥ X 4♥ 4♠ X P P P
W HOP	E WORTEL	
♠ KQJ ♥ J1032 ♦ 83 ♣ AJ97	♠ 109 ♥ AKQ8 ♦ Q97 ♣ K1083	
S DEMUY		
♠ 76543 ♥ 9764 ♦ 654 ♣ 4		4♠x S NS: 0 EW: 0

East's first double specifically showed a heart suit (1H bid would be a spade suit) and West confirms a fit with 2H.

North, having overcalled 1D already, now doubles 2H. This is takeout showing tolerance for the unbid suits (the blacks).

Slightly aggressive yes but at this stage of the auction he was hoping to compete for the part-score. East bids 4H. This is cold since the CQ is marked on the bidding.

South sits up and takes stock of the bidding thus far.

"Hmmm partner has a good hand and is probably void in hearts, we have a decent fit in spades and partner has bid diamonds first. Surely 4S has a chance here or is a cheap save...."

Before his hand leaves the 4S bid, West doubles. What transpired is too gruesome for words. PG is advised.

In distributional contracts like this it is right to stop the ruffing power. A trump was thus led - the ♠ K - ducked. ♠ Q was continued and the ace taken.

South now played the ♦ A - ♦ K and another diamond. East wins the ♦ Q and on this trick West discards the ♥ J!

East promptly underleads his A-K-Q of hearts and reaches West with the ♥ 10! West draws with the ♠ J and dummy is now truly marooned. Suffice to say that South made 5 tricks only, for a loss of 1400!

Amazing hand, yes?

2019 Cavendish bulletins and results are here: <http://www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com/2019-cavendish/>

Have a great 2022, folks!

About the Author:





There are some combinations of cards which penalize the side first leads that suit. In these cases, adopt a PASSIVE ROLE in that suit. When it is your turn to lead, play a different suit, one in which you let declarer win tricks he would ordinarily win in any event. Then declarer will have to lead in a situation like this.

	<b>DUMMY</b> J75	
<b>YOU</b> K93		<b>PARTNER</b> Q84
	<b>DECLARER</b> A1062	

If dummy or declarer leads the suit first, they cannot avoid losing two tricks to your side. But if you or partner leads suit first, declarer can keep you to one trick. This layout of cards is pretty common.



## THE GOLDEN RULE

by Val Bloom

“THE GOLDEN RULE IS THAT THERE IS NO GOLDEN RULE” — George Bernard Shaw

When we learn the great game of bridge we are taught a number of rules for example: You need 12 points to open, 6 to respond, cover an Honour with an Honour, eight ever – nine never, SECOND HAND LOW, third high etc. etc.

As we become more proficient at the table we learn there are exceptions to every one of these rules and that they are merely guidelines most of the time. Here is one example of SECOND HAND HIGH! You (West) are defending 4 spades. You lead the 10C and See Dummy:

	Xxx
	AJ10xx
	Xxx
	QX
Jxx	
Qx	
Q10xx	
1098xx	

On the lead Declarer tries the Queen, then covers partner s King with the Ace. Declarer then plays Ace, King of Trumps & a small heart to dummy. The success of the hand depends on Declarer’s handling of the heart suit - to lose only one heart trick and to create winners to dispose of the losing Diamond. When Declarer plays a small heart towards dummy & West follows low (2nd hand low) Declarer will finesse the 10 and the Defence is powerless (If East wins the King – heart suit set up, if East ducks declarer ducks a second round of the suit and again heart suit set up).

## OBSERVE WHAT HAPPENS IF WEST INSERTS THE QUEEN

If declarer ducks he loses 2 tricks in that suit. If declarer wins and continues the suit, East thwarts Declarer's plan by also ducking. On this line of play West will get a well-deserved above average!

### THE COMPLETE DEAL

	Xxx	
	AJ10xx	
	Xxx	
	Qx	
Jxx		Qxx
Qx		Kxx
Q10xx		J9x
1098xx		KJxx
	AKxxx	
	Xxx	
	AKx	
	Ax	

Note: A superior line by Declarer would be to cash the Ace of Spades only, then play a heart to dummy as if striving to finesse in Spades. This would require a very wide-awake West to play the Queen.



### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

#### TRIVIA

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B

