



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water (a misquote from *Jaws*) a 4th 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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The graphic features a large, gold-outlined spade symbol in the center. To its left is a gold-outlined club symbol, and to its right is a red heart symbol. Below the spade is a red diamond symbol. The background is black. At the top, there are three green horizontal bars on each side. The text 'ANNUAL SUBS' is in large, bold, white and green letters. 'due!' is written in white cursive. The payment information is in white text inside the spade. The contribution amounts 'SABF R100' and 'GBU R25' are in white text on green and red rectangular backgrounds respectively. At the bottom, 'R125 TOTAL FOR 2022!' is in large green letters, and 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!' is in white letters between two green horizontal lines.



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.

About the Author:

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



NOVICE'S CORNER

Use Your Foot Soldiers

by **Lisa Adamson**

A “foot soldier” is any honor card below a missing honor (my terminology). So for N-S holding

North	A Q J 7 4
South	9 8 5

the K is missing. J and Q are the foot soldiers and can be used to flush out the K. Playing the A and then J or Q could lead to losing control.

When dummy appears, the first thing declarer must do is count the number of guaranteed tricks that are available. The next thing to do is to look at the suits that can yield an extra trick. A K Q x x has three guaranteed tricks. If the rest of the suit is distributed evenly, it could yield 5, but beware of the opponent who has four of the suit headed by the J, or even five of the suit.

A Q J x has only one guaranteed trick. This is where your foot-soldiers, namely Q and J come into play. Lead the suit from South to your holding intending to play the J.

If K is with LHO and he plays it, play A and Q J are now good. If LHO ducks, play J. Now go back to dummy to lead through LHO again (very important, I have watched many declarers omit to repeat this manoeuvre). If he plays the K, then A Q become additional tricks; if he ducks again play the Q and then A may fell his K.

If RHO has K, and he plays it, you will lose a trick but A Q are now two stoppers in the suit.

It is important to make this play early in the hand. You need to have control of the other suits while this is in progress. If you leave it until later, when the opposition wins a trick they may be able to run off a long suit over which you have poor control.

Look at this deal from a Team of 4 match, with Rosebud and Bud sitting NS.

	♠ J 8 7 ♥ K J 4 ♦ Q 9 6 4 ♣ A Q 6		Bidding			
			W	N	E	S
				1D	P	1S

- d. 1827 to 1
4. The ace-asking convention most commonly used today was created by Mr. Blackwood. Was he...
 - a. English
 - b. Canadian
 - c. American
 - d. Australian
 5. A hand with 24 high card points is unusual. It occurs approximately...
 - a. Once out of every 500 hands
 - b. Once out of every 1000 hands
 - c. Once out of every 1500 hands
 - d. Once out of every 2000 hands
 6. Before Howard Schenken became famous as a bridge author and columnist he...
 - a. Waited at tables
 - b. Was involved in the building trade
 - c. Was a real estate investor
 - d. Worked with racehorses
 7. Whose famous saying was, "Bid boldly, play safely"?
 - a. Howard Schenken
 - b. Rixi Markus
 - c. Eddie Kantar
 - d. Helen Sobel
 8. Which statement is true?
 - a. There are only two bridge systems, Acol and Standard American
 - b. A bridge system to be used in a bridge event has to be patented
 - c. All major bridge playing countries have their own system for use by their players. Smaller population countries adopt one of these
 - d. There are innumerable bidding systems. At least 54 different systems have been identified
 9. Who said, "Every time the defence leads a new suit it averages to lose a half trick"?
 - a. Charles Goren
 - b. Howard Schenken
 - c. Samuel Stayman
 - d. Milton C. Work
 10. Kibitzer is a common word now (thanks to BBO) for a person who is observing a bridge game. It means a looker-on. Its origin is...
 - a. Turkish
 - b. Yiddish
 - c. Indian
 - d. Made up name by Harold Vanderbilt



MONACO CAVENDISH PAIRS

by Sid Ismail

A hand from the 2019 Monaco Cavendish Pairs.

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.

	DUMMY J75	
YOU K93		PARTNER Q84
	DECLARER 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

