

THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

EDITION 3.1
JANUARY 2018

PUBLISHER: James Grant
EDITOR: Stephen Rosenberg
sabre@matrixnet.co.za
082 330 46797

OUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

We are extremely lucky to have a group of very talented bridge-players who are all prepared to contribute regularly to this publication. At present, they comprise four from the Gauteng Bridge Union, as well as Peter Bircher of KZN. We do hope to add others from other Unions in the not too distant future.



Peter Bircher



Chris Bosenberg



Sid Ismail



Jeff Sapire



Barbara Smith



And thanks also to Helen Kagan of Helen's Tuesday Club, and Gill Brown of Northern's Bridge Club for their contributions to this issue of **THE BRIDGE**.

FROM THE EDITOR

With my wife Brenda, I spent a delightful two weeks in Cape Town recently, during which, *inter alia*, we caught up with our cousins and fellow bridge-players, Rochelle Urisohn and Hazel Scalabrino; with the semigrants, Sammy de Haas and Erica Zimet; and played, without distinction on a Saturday afternoon at Green Point, so well controlled as always by Neil Hayward. During this period, the Western Cape Festival of Bridge was played over the 16th December weekend. You will find a summary of the results on page 2 and the full results on the Union's excellent web-site. A real thank you goes to the sponsors, Warwick Wealth



who are also generous sponsors of the S A B F. I look forward to hearing from you all, and to including your contributions in future editions of **THE BRIDGE BULLETIN**. It just remains to send you all



And, as Ossip Broz once said to Skopl Topl, "May all your finesses go right!" *Stephen Rosenberg*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

THE WESTERN CAPE FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

The Western Cape Festival of Bridge was played over the holiday week-end of 16th December. A six-match Teams' tournament attracted 26 teams, not only from the local union, but with entrants from Gauteng, KZN and Europe.

The runaway winner was the Convery team of Chris Convery (pictured below), A. Fletcher, Imtiaz Kaprey and Zimbabwe's Andrew Brooke.



Chris Convery

156 players entered for the pairs' event, with the top three pairs ensuring a tight finish: Sven-Ake Bjerregaard & Alon Apteker on 65,34% Noah Apteker and Hennie Fick on 62,03% and Di Balkin and Rob Stephens on 61,76%



Sven-Ake Bjerregaard Alon Apteker



Noah Apteker and Hennie Fick

THE BERTHA COHEN TROPHY

A strong entry competed for the Bertha Cohen trophy, played at the lovely Orchards Bridge Club in Johannesburg on a warm Sunday in December.



Orchards' Bridge Club 40 pairs settling in.

The top ten positions changed hands frequently, with the progressive scores and positions being shown on a big screen throughout the day. This motivated the players to take chances and go for broke, especially if they were meeting a pair just above them on the log. The final overall winners were Bernard Donde and Hennie Fick, *pictured below*, with the impressive Trophy.



Congratulations must also go to the ladies of the Bridge@Orchards team for their initiative in asking players to bring gifts that would be distributed to local less privileged children for Christmas, with the usual generous results.



Gifts Galore Betty Debbie Lorna Lily



JEFF SAPIRE'S BRIDGE LOUNGE

Jeff, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, 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.

These days, all serious partnerships have a host of systemic agreements and conventions. The Italians are no exception, and they have been very innovative over the years in this regard, as shown in this Teams' match.

Dlr: N
Vul: EW

T43
J6
AJ87
KT54

K765	AJ9
K9	Q87432
K632	T
AQ3	862

Q82
AT5
Q954
J97

The Bidding:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1NT	2D
2H	2S
2NT	3NT
4H	All pass

Opening lead: C4

The auction was a typical example of Italian science at work. Note East's decision not to open a weak two with such a bad suit at this vulnerability. 2D was a transfer to hearts, and then 2S was a relay, forcing West to bid 2NT. 3NT now showed a slam try but without two of the top three heart honours. (Is there anything these guys don't think of?). So, West settled for 4H. In the Closed Room the auction was much simpler; 1NT-2D; 2H-4H. Here, on the C4 lead, declarer won in dummy, played a heart to the king, and played the nine of hearts, ducking when the jack appeared. Eventually he took the losing spade finesse for one down. (The spade suit can be picked up for three tricks by the spectacular line of a backward finesse – leading the jack first, and if covered, finessing against the ten - but this is a rather inferior approach). Lauria looked deeper; on the same lead he won in dummy and played a diamond towards the king. When South covered the ten with the queen he ducked. South erred by playing back a second diamond which he ruffed in dummy. (This defence helped declarer strip the hand). Now a heart to the king and a heart towards dummy, ducking when the jack appeared, same as at the other table. North played a second club which he won in hand, and he ruffed a third diamond in dummy, and then crossed to the ace of clubs. This was the position:

Immaterial

K765	AJ9
--	Q8
K	--
--	--

Q82
A
9
--

Lauria now ruffed the king of diamonds in dummy (North still had the ace of diamonds) and then exited with the queen of hearts to South's ace, who was now end-played, and forced to play a spade, thus giving declarer his tenth

Jeff Sapiro

THIS ONE'S 50/50!

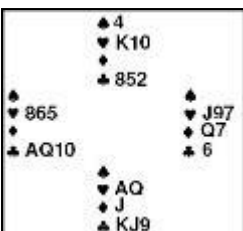
by Peter Bircher of Margate

For those of you who don't know Peter Bircher, he runs a very successful club on KZN's South Coast, is an established player and Tournament Director, and a whizz at scoring and the computer systems so vital in running a tournament. For this edition of **THE BRIDGE**, he writes:

This hand had half the field making and half going down in an obvious game. North/South will get to 4♠ after South opens with a club, North responds 1♠ and east puts in a diamond overcall. (It is feasible that South might open a strong NT with 14HCP's and a 6-card club suit, hoping to protect the majors from attack, often a good play)

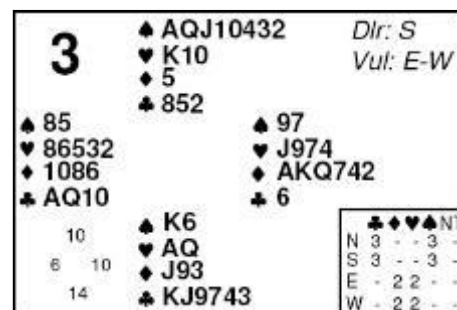
The obvious lead is a diamond. It should fail if East reads declarer for a singleton diamond and switches to a club at trick two. If this happened to you there was not much you could have done about it. West takes the Q-A of clubs and gives partner a club ruff to set the contract there and then. However, if East persists with diamonds, a lifeline is thrown, and the contract is now makeable.

Declarer ruffs and runs the spades reaching this position with one spade still to play:



On the last spade, east and dummy both throw diamonds.

How the play continues depends on what west discards; If West parts with a heart, declarer cashes the top hearts and throws west in with a club. Down to only clubs, declarer must be allowed to make a club for the 10th trick. However, if West discards a club, declarer plays a club and eventually makes a club at the end.



Peter Bircher

THE PIERRE DU TOIT TOURNAMENT

by Helen Kagan of Helen's Tuesday Bridge Club



Pierre du Toit



Helen Kagan

The inaugural tournament to honour Pierre du Toit for his commitment, vision and very hard work to take the Links Bridge Club for the past 17 years to where it is today – a vibrant and technologically advanced club, was launched on Sunday 19th November by Helen Kagan of Helen's Tuesday Bridge Club, in association with Peta Feinstein, Chairlady of the Links Bridge Club.

The event was handicapped to give players a fairer chance at winning the tournament and was very well supported by 52 pairs playing all day long. A scrumptious tea was served in the morning which delighted the players, and then in the afternoon, a delicious tea and candy buffet was presented as well.

The overall winners of this event were Noah Apteker and Hennie Fick. Craig Gower and Merle Bracher took second place. After the handicap was applied, first place went to Alice Rummel and Elaine Wulfsohn. Nathan Herscovitz and Myron Elias took second place. Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you to all the players who supported this day to honour Pierre, who was a very happy man indeed that such acknowledgement had been given to him. This will become a yearly event. The date for 2018 will be in the new diary.

Helen Kagan

By now, you all know Barbara Smith Barbara Smith. Here's another witty and instructive bridge story from the series she wrote for the Financial Mail back in the 1980s.

"THE PAR RESULT"

<p>N ♠ 86 ♥ 74 ♦ AK9764 ♣ 1076</p>	<p>E ♠ K952 ♥ 10863 ♦ 3 ♣ J832</p>	<p>W ♠ 10743 ♥ 952 ♦ Q105 ♣ K95</p>
<p>S ♠ A Q J ♥ A K Q J ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A Q 4</p>		
<p>Contract: 6 NT Opening lead: 5 H</p>		

I held the South hand on the above deal. I do not recall exactly how the bidding proceeded but without much ado we landed in a fairly healthy-looking contract of 6NT. The West opponent, rather unkindly, led a heart which gave me absolutely nothing — a spade or a club would at least have given me one extra

trick.

What were my prospects? If the diamonds broke 2-2 — no problems — but this was unlikely. If the diamonds were 3-1, I would have to give up a diamond and play for either the K♣ or the K♠ to be on side. The K♣ looked like a slightly better bet, and possibly I would get some clues when I ran the diamond suit.

I won the first trick with the K♥ and played a small diamond from my hand. I was missing the queen, ten, five and three of diamonds. West followed with the five, I played the Ace and East produced the three. I played a small heart to the Ace of hearts in my hand and now played the Knave of diamonds, as I did not wish to block the suit. West quite smoothly played the ten of diamonds, and I felt much happier about the whole hand.

East's diamond holding was obviously the Queen and the three, the diamonds were breaking 2-2 and I had no worries about whether to take the spade or the club finesse. I played the Ace of diamonds from dummy and waited for East

to produce the Queen. To my mortification, he played the two of spades. With no entry to dummy the whole diamond suit was dead — instead of making five diamond tricks, I could come to only two.

I was now lucky to get out for two down in what had been an ice-cold contract!

It is true that I should perhaps have still ducked the diamond. At that time, however, I was unaware of West's craftiness. He had deliberately sacrificed a diamond trick, seeing this as his only chance of beating the contract.

I unfortunately, had believed my own eyes and had been beaten by a brilliant deceptive defence! Even my partner sympathised with me!

N.B. I am indebted for this hand to one of the great bridge players of yesteryear and to *The Bridge World*: (November 1983). In 1947, Harry Merkle of California, convinced that the contract was on ice, decided to make declarer an offer he couldn't refuse! As Merkle put it: "Down two was the par result!"

Barbara Smith



THE WILES OF HELEN SOBEL

Helen Smith Sobel seldom, if ever, mis-guessed a queen in a

slam contract when she was playing against two men. Her trick was to lift her skirt a little above her knees, and remember that she was an ex-chorus girl!

It never failed that the one with the queen was too nervous to look around, but the one without the queen always looked.

Sobel was fiercely competitive. For good measure, she sometimes wore sunglasses to tournaments to deceive opponents into regarding her as a dumb blonde.

BRIDGE MUSINGS



Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster.



If you have the slightest touch of sado-masochism, you'll love this game. But, regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbour, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.

THE MONTHLY QUIZ

compiled by Sid Ismail of Benoni

I don't think that Sid Ismail needs much of an introduction as most of you already know him as a player and as one of the SABF's Senior Tournament Directors. His monthly quiz has no prize other than the joy of possibly seeing your name in print.

Q1. **BIDDING.** You are South, both vulnerable, with North the dealer. You hold:

♠ AQ5
♥ KJ532
♦ Q54
♣ A8

The bidding goes like this:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	P	1♥
P	1♠	P	?

What would you bid, and why?

Q2. **DEFENSE.** You are West, and the bidding goes like this:

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

¹Jacoby – spade support – game values.

The play has gone like this:

Trick 1: 2♣ 4♣ Q♣ A♣
Trick 2: 3♠ A♠ 5♠ 2♠
Trick 3: ?

What do you lead next, and why?

Q3. **DECLARER PLAY.** You are South; with no opposition bidding, you land up as declarer in 6♥. This is your hand:

♠ KJ852
♥ AQ3
♦ AQJ
♣ J2

West leads the ♣T, and dummy comes down:

♠ A3
♥ KJT9854
♦ 62
♣ KQ

You insert dummy's ♣K, East' puts on the ace and you drop the jack. Back comes the ♣4.

What do you next, and why?

Please send replies to sabre@matrixnet.co.za, to reach us by the 25th of each month. Answers in next month's the bridge

Sid Ismail

DEAR CHRIS

This is the second in a new series, in which you can ask top bridge-player and frequent South African representative, Chris Bosenberg, bidding or play questions and get the benefit of his expert advice. So, here's the next question put to Chris with his very considered reply. Please send any further questions for Chris to me at sabre@matrixnet.co.za and I will pass the most interesting on to him for his reply. *Stephen Rosenberg, Editor.*

NUMBER 2 – HOW TO PLAY IT?

“Dear Chris,

I really loved your very detailed reply to last month’s question. Well, my question today relates to play rather than bidding. I am giving you all four hands, because even seeing them now, I’m not sure what I should have done to make my contract! I was playing in a reasonable level and very competitive social Team-of-Four, all of us rather aggressive bidders, when this hand came up:

Dlr. East Vul. Both	9753 A8 KJ5 T752	
AT8 KQ952 A76 96		KQ J643 9843 K83
	J64 T76 QT2 AQJ4	

The short and simple bidding went like this:

WEST	NORTH (ME)	EAST	SOUTH
		P	P
1H	1S	2H	2S
X	P	P	P

Opponents led a low heart. I took the queen with my ace. I then led a low spade, won by East, who continued with a heart, won by West, who then led a low diamond to my king. I tried another low spade, won by East with the queen who continued diamonds to West’s ace. West led another diamond to dummy’s queen. I led the SJ from dummy to West’s ace. By now, I was already book, and wanted to avoid any more losers. West now led the H9 and I had a serious problem. Obviously, I had to ruff in hand to avoid being trapped in dummy, but what should I discard from dummy, and why? I discarded a club – down one!
I need help, Bryanston”

“Before discussing the play, I would like to refer to your vulnerable 1S overcall. How many points you need for an overcall depends on who you ask. Opinions vary widely. What matters most is that you and your partner have the same understanding about overcalls. You and your partner certainly have a good understanding on this hand. Most players would not overcall on such a poor suit especially vulnerable on your hand and if they did would reach the 3 level as partner may stubbornly explore game. Although you achieved your objective most opponents would not sell out to 2S if they are playing 5 card majors. It is difficult to understand West’s double and East leaving the double in. Most partnerships would not play a double in this sequence as penalties. There a few reasons for getting into the auction whenever possible.

- a) The contract may belong to your side.
- b) We may push the opponents to an uncomfortable level.
- c) We take bidding room away from the opponents. The more room we take away the better. If the opening bid is 1♦, an overcall of 1♥ doesn’t take away much room, but an overcall of 2♣ takes away responder’s opportunity to bid 1♥, 1♠, or 1NT. d) We may help our side defend better if we don’t win the auction. The more partner knows about our hand, the easier it will be to defend, and this advantage may outweigh any benefit declarer may also get. For example, our overcall might get partner off to the best opening lead. On balance, the advantages of overcalling tend to strongly outweigh the disadvantages. With your hand your bid did not take up any space and gave the opponents more options as responder could now pass, double, or cue-bid which may allow responder to better describe the hand than if you had passed. Finally you give away information. If you don’t win the auction, declarer may have a better idea how to play the contract or opponents how to defend.

The play

Opponents led a low heart. I took the queen with my ace. I then led a low spade, won by East, who continued with a heart, won by West, who then led a low diamond to my king.

Playing the King was your error as you need your KJ of diamonds as an entry to finesse Clubs later. Assume you played low and won the Queen in dummy and continue as before.

I tried another low spade, won by East with the queen who continued diamonds to West’s ace. West led another diamond *This diamond would now be won in your hand. You can now take a club finesse and not be squeezed and make your contract*

It is trite to state that a squeeze forces an opponent to discard a winning card, a potentially winning card, or a guard to a winning card in any suit. Your opponents who squeezed you from finessing twice which in my investigation has never been written up amongst the 50-odd known different squeeze types. We can submit it to the authorities and suggest it be referred to a "The Bryanston Finesse Squeeze" There is already a squeeze defined as a Deep Finesse Squeeze which is a squeeze that apparently occurs when three or more cards are missing higher in rank than the card finessed. This deep finesse is often made in order to execute a *suck* or *avoidance* play, but can be a genuine play necessary to achieve the best result.”

HERE AND THERE

NORTHERN'S BRIDGE CLUB

by Gillian Brown

We had our 23rd birthday party in October and all were asked to wear hats to give it a festive "feel". I have sent you a couple of photos. The one is Gerald Brickman, who has helped at NBC for 23 years, and with me for the last 15, and the other is just a snap of players in their festive hats. I was out of bridge for four weeks, but I am back in the saddle. I am very grateful to Lorna Speller and Debbie Gibbs of Bridge@Orchards for running the Bridgemates and the computer and to Gerald, Jo, and Murrae for putting everything out and to all the helpers who put equipment away. Another thing that you may be interested in is that in attempting to cut down on the amount of cash taken in the mornings, I have started a book of tokens of 11 which cost R700.00 to members, a 10% discount. I use the tokens as prizes too.



Gerald Brickman and Gill Brown



Vide les chapeaux!

Gillian Brown

THE MAIN EVENTS

We know that it's very early in the year, but not too early for you to start diarising and preparing for these main events:

Graceland Casino Bridge Festival Red Point Pairs' Event with R15 000 in Prizes



Graceland Casino Resort, Secunda

16 - 18 February 2018

(Two sessions on Saturday; one on Sunday Morning)

**SAWBA National Congress
Interprovincial Teams, Pairs and Teams**
The Bridge Centre, Greenpoint, Cape Town
1 - 9 March 2018

**SABF National Congress
Teams and Pairs**
The Links Bridge Club, Johannesburg East
27 April - 4 May

**SABF INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS
Teams and Pairs**
Durban (Venue TBA)
1 - 4 November

And remember, there are still all the Unions' Mini Congresses to come, Bridge@Orchards' Rita Jacobson and Bertha Cohen Trophies, the Pierre du Toit Tournament, the NGBU's Jan Prins Pairs and many more - details as I get them!

Stephen Rosenberg