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## THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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### FROM THE EDITOR



I don't know if you've seen that very cute snippet doing the rounds on You Tube? It's the one with the even cuter little Indian boy reminding us that what you practice is what you become good at! Among the examples he lips is the one that "if you practice complaining, you'll become very good at complaining"!

So, where am I going with this? I would like you to spare more than one thought for those dedicated people who keep bridge alive in Gauteng; I'm referring the owners of our various affiliated clubs and especially to those volunteer committee members of the "original" clubs – JBC, Hillbrow and The Links Saturday Afternoon Club. Without their contributions to Bridge South Africa (BSA), the owners of The Links facility, there would be a huge hole in our bridge-playing universe. Sure the club owners make a profit which they retain, but also only after making their contributions to the SABF, the GBU and BSA as appropriate. The volunteer, unpaid committee members are all only doing their best; they aren't looking for appreciation or even recognition, but they at least deserve your respect!

So, practice paying them all their rightful dues, and you may find that this starts becoming a habit with you.

On a lighter note, someone once said that bridge is not only a boon in old age, it also helps you get there much faster!

*Stephen Rosenberg*

### IN THIS ISSUE

We are privileged to be able to continue to feature articles by our regular contributors, Chris Bosenberg, Sid Ismail, Jeff Sapire and Barbara Smith, as well as a heartwarming story from one of my favourite ladies, who insists on remaining anonymous.

We also bring you a short piece on a South African pair who took on the Aussies in their own back yard, and won! Also, news of a marriage between two venerable clubs. We introduce a new regular feature "My Favourite Bridge Story", all drawn from the personal experiences of well-known and not-so-well-known international bridge players.

We keep you up-to-date with innovations in the Gauteng bridge world and highlight the upcoming Big Events.

Finally, we re-iterate that we would love to hear from you on any bridge-related topic, and will do our absolute best to include your contributions in

**THE BRIDGE BULLETIN.**

## WHAT'S HOT ON THE INTERNET

Check out [www.bridgeatorchards.co.za](http://www.bridgeatorchards.co.za) for details of their exciting "**THE HALFWAY TOYOTA ROAD TO ORCHARDS**" ongoing competition with **OVER R25,000 IN PRIZE MONEY, PLUS OTHER PRIZES TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE COURSE OF THE COMPETITION.**

And don't miss looking-in on The Links' web-site for news about the Saturday afternoon "Gentle Tournament" designed to introduce novice and social players in a "gentle" way to the joys and rigours of duplicate bridge!

# WHAT'S NEW IN GAUTENG

## A MARRIAGE HAS BEEN ARRANGED

between the two venerable clubs, the Johannesburg Bridge Club (JBC) and the Hillbrow Bridge Club.



OK, so don't ask me which is which! Under this arrangement, the JBC will continue to run swipe-in graded Pairs' events every Monday evening, except that the last Monday will be a Teams' tournament under the auspices of the newly-wed pair of clubs! This arrangement will continue until further notice.



The Teams' tournament has already started with a quite satisfactory entry of 20 teams; here they are finalising the scoring after the first round.

All the events, Pairs and Teams alike, will start promptly at 1930 every Monday. We look forward to seeing you there on a regular basis.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Oh yes! How about some ideas for a new name for this joint venture? So far, we've had:

- JOBBROW
- JILLBROW
- EBC (EGOLI BRIDGE CLUB)

but I'm sure you can do better than these. Let me have your ideas by email to [sabre@matrixnet.co.za](mailto:sabre@matrixnet.co.za) or by WhatsApp to 082 330 4697.

Go on, wow me!

*Stephen Rosenberg*

## THE WALL

When you were very young did you ever get hold of a crayon and draw a beautiful picture on the sitting room wall for your mummy? Did she like it? Well, never mind, it was fun wasn't it?

And now you can have some more fun because we have just launched the Wall where you can scribble away to your heart's content. We can do away with those silly lists of messages posted at your local clubs that nobody bothers to read; now you can fail to read all those messages on the Wall instead. Ostensibly the purpose of the Wall is to advertise the fact that you are looking for a partner for Saturday's game, or a partner for a regular game at the club, or for a long-term relationship, well, whatever. The point I'm making is that you can write any message you like and there's a dinky drop down menu to let you slot in your message at club level or simply under General.

The message you create will appear on the Wall until such time as

- a) You delete it
- b) A month has passed when it will magically disappear
- c) The newly formed SABF Censorship Board deletes it, in which case expect a summons from your nearest Disciplinary Committee.

So, if you post a message what's the worst that could happen?

- 1) You find a partner for Saturday's game. Good.
- 2) You are visited by the Secret Police during the night and we never see you again. Bad.

Enough of the official stuff, now for the practical instructions. If you log in to sabfonline, on the top bar you will see **Wall**. Click on this, then click on **Create new wall post**. Write what you like in any style or colour that you fancy then click on **Publish**. It's as easy as that.

One last thing, if your taste in graffiti is of a political bent, and, for instance you want to post **Our president James Grant is a raving idiot!** could I please ask you to make sure you spell my name correctly?

If you have never logged on to sabfonline before or are wondering what other fun you can have there, then go to our SABF website at [www.sabf.co.za](http://www.sabf.co.za) and in the top right corner **Click here for sabfonline guides** then click on **Hitchhikers' guide to the Website**. *James Grant*



OK, perhaps not of the world, but at least Alon Apteker and Craig Gower, pictured below,



went off to Australia, to Canberra *nogal*, took on 388 bridge-players and won the main Pairs' event in an Australian national tournament!

## THE MAIN EVENTS

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

**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*

# THE VANISHING TRICK

by *Barbara Smith*

♠	JT	♠	K875
♥	863	♥	Q94
♦	AQT7	♦	863
♣	AKQJ	♣	976
♠	6	♠	AQ9432
♥	AK94	♥	JT2
♦	952	♦	KJ4
♣	T8432	♣	5

Contract 4♠ by South; lead A♥

*Dear Barbara,*

"Perhaps you can explain what happened to my certain trick in the above hand. I held the East hand and felt vaguely optimistic about defeating the final contract. My partner led A♥, followed by the king. He then led a third heart to my queen, surprisingly, not trumped. By now I was positively beaming, for there was no way that South could possibly capture my thrice guarded king of trumps – or so I thought! After winning the ♥Q, I made the safe return of a club, won in dummy with the jack. Declarer next led the ♠J, which I, of course, ducked; then the ten and again I let it ride. He paused for thought momentarily when West discarded a small club on the second trump, and then made the most extraordinary plays – the A♣, an obvious trick, and trumped it in hand! This was followed by a diamond to dummy's ten and then came the K♣, again trumped! South now played the K♦ to the ace and played the Q♣ from dummy. It would do me no good to trump, so I discarded a small diamond, as did South.

Eleven tricks had been played and my last two cards were both trumps, the king and the 8, while dummy had only the AQ♦. I was stuck. Whatever came from dummy, I had to ruff, and South would simply over-ruff. It all seems so unfair! Did I do anything wrong?"

*Bewildered Bridge Player*

*"Don't feel bad or berate yourself. There is absolutely nothing you could have done. Unfortunately for you, South showed he knew how to play a hand! When trumps did not break, South realised he could only make the contract on a trump coup, reducing his trumps to the same number that you held. He had to get rid of two trumps to achieve this, which he did by ruffing his top two club winners. This rare and spectacular play is known as a double grand coup and all credit to South for recognising the possibilities and making it at the table." My only other advice is that next time you make sure that whoever was sitting South is now your partner."*

# 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](mailto:jeffshirl@telkomsa.net), or 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.

Those bridge players from way back who followed the columns written by the American champion, the late B J Becker, may recall the fictional character called Sylvia (actually named after his wife). She would come up with the most outrageous bids and plays, yet land on her feet. An example might be where should would accidentally trump her partner's ace – and this would be the only way to beat the contract. Today's hand was dealt at a class I was teaching, and it had the 'Sylvia' touch.

West dealer, EW vul.

	<u>NORTH</u>		
	S A2		
	H 6		
	D AKQ863		
	C AJ53		
<u>WEST</u>		<u>EAST</u>	
S 543		S 9876	
H AKQ987		H 10432	
D 5		D 1074	
C KQ10		C 96	
	<u>SOUTH</u>		
	S KQJ10		
	H J5		
	D J92		
	C 8742		

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	
1H	dbl	pass	1S	
2H	3H	pass	3S	
pass	4NT	pass	5C	
pass	5D	pass	6S	
All pass				Opening lead: HA

North/South lost their way completely in the bidding, ending up in the crazy contract of 6S!

When dummy appeared, South was horrified. Here she was, playing in 6S in a 4-2 fit! Why weren't they in diamonds instead, with their nine-card fit, she wondered?

After the ace of hearts, west switched to the king of clubs at trick two, taken in dummy, and declarer composed herself to take stock. With a reasonable spade break (4-3) there were eleven top tricks, so the twelfth would have to come from a heart ruff. Accordingly, she crossed to the jack of diamonds and found the key play of ruffing her heart with the ace of spades! Now she was able to play a small spade to hand and draw all the trumps, followed by all the diamonds. 6S bid and made.

Note that if she had ruffed the heart low and cashed the ace of spades, there would be no way back to hand to draw the remaining trumps. East/West were somewhat aggrieved by all of this, and to add insult to injury they observed that 6D cannot make - there are only eleven tricks to be had. And finally, South pointed out that if West had led the king of clubs instead (not recommended) the slam would have gone down.

*Jeff Sapiro*

# THE MONTHLY QUIZ compiled by Sid Ismail

**JANUARY 2018**

Here's last month's quiz with the solutions in red.

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?

**Bidding:** Since you are not sure if partner has 3 hearts, or if partner has 6-5 in diamonds-spades, or if partner has a 16-18-point hand, get more information first before you place the contract. The way to ask is to bid the 4th suit, so, bid 2C.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
P	2NT <sup>1</sup>	P	4♠
P	P	P	

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?

<sup>1</sup>Jacoby – spade support – game values.

**Defense:** At trick 1, partner played the queen of clubs. So, who has the CJ? Declarer of course. We need to get to partner for him to return a club. Play the D6 or D8 = denying an honour. If partner played the knave of clubs at trick 1 and this drew the ace, we can then assume partner has the queen. In that case, we would underlead our king.

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

♠ KJ852	West leads the
♥ AQ3	♣ T, and dummy
♦ AQJ	comes down:
♣ J2	♠ 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?

**Declarer Play:** We have 11 tricks and the 12th can come from a diamond finesse or establishing the 5th spade. We work out the entry position and all is fine if the spades break no worse than 4-2. What is imperative is to draw 2 rounds of trumps first with the KING and ACE, and not ACE and QUEEN. In the latter case, you will be an entry short!

So then... HK-HA-SA-SK-S2 ruffed. If the spades are 5-1 or 6-0, we will take the diamond finesse. But we find out the spades are 4-2. Great news!

We continue with a trump to the queen and ruff the 4th spade and go back to dummy via the diamond ace to collect the good spade, our 12th trick.

*Sid Ismail*

# THE MONTHLY QUIZ compiled by Sid Ismail

**FEBRUARY 2018**

David Berkowitz sat south representing the USA in the senior's section of the 2017 World championships. He landed up in 5C and the Italian West led the S4.

	Q6 K86 KQ95 AT43	
KJ843 92 762 Q72		AT972 QJ754 84 5
	5 AT9 AJT3 KJ986	



David Berkowitz

East took the ace and returned a spade. David ruffed this. He then tried the two top trumps, but West started with Qxx. It looks like he had an inescapable heart loser, right? If David makes this he will wash the board as the other table made 5D. Else he will lose 11 IMPs.

**QUIZ: How would you continue? There is a way to make it, I assure you.** The solution will be in next month's Bulletin. *Sid Ismail*

## THIS MONTH'S BRIDGE CARTOON

With thanks to Shirley Glyn

**When you can't find  
your reading glasses!**



## ART & BRIDGE

When someone combines my two passions – art and bridge – I can only stand and applaud! And that is what is happening at The Art Link Gallery on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Parkhurst .... but the picture below says it all!



The brain-child of new bridge-nut and gallery owner, Shani Krebs, will see seasoned professional Hennie Fick, assisted by Shirley Glyn, offer bridge lessons to beginners and intermediate players alike in the stimulating surroundings of the Gallery. For details, contact:

Shani 078 665 9656  
Hennie 078 136 1210  
Shirley 082 881 8004

# DEAR CHRIS

This is the third in the 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](mailto:sabre@matrixnet.co.za) and I will pass the most interesting on to him for his reply. *Stephen Rosenberg, Editor.*

## NUMBER 3 – MAE WEST'S "NOT SO FAST"

"Dear Chris,

I was sitting South in a good level club Pairs' tournament in Johannesburg, when this deal came up: S QJT98 H KQ3 D AK7 C 97. I did not keep a record of the bidding, but my partner and I bid aggressively to 4 spades. The lead was the CA. Dummy came down: S A32 H A65 D 9862 C 95. The defence started with three rounds of clubs. I ruffed the third round in hand. I have a definite diamond loser, so it looks like the spade finesse must work if I want to make my 4S, and probably a top! So, I lead the SQ, let it ride. It holds! Then comes the SJ, and West follows small, but East shows out!! West still has the protected SK. So, it looks like I still lose a spade and a diamond. West chips in with ""down one?!". But in the immortal words of **Mae West**, I respond with 'not so fast, my friend'. I am sure that there must be some way to make my contract. What would you have done? Never Give Up, Sandton"

And Chris here's the complete deal if you need it:

♠ A32	
♥ A65	
♦ 9862	
♣ J62	
♠ K654	♠ 7
♥ 742	♥ JT98
♦ 543	♦ QJT
♣ AK3	♣ QT874
♠ QJT98	
♥ KQ3	
♦ AK7	
♣ 95	



Mae West

*"Mae West also said "Positive thoughts generate positive feelings and attract positive life experiences. You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." So, as we only have one chance to play this hand, let's try and do it right! They may revoke or by some miracle you may still make the hand. So, we'll try for a miracle then. You ruff the Club and draw 2 rounds of trumps and discover the bad break. There's no purpose in playing more trumps, so cash three Hearts and AK of Diamonds and give up a Diamond and hope that East must win it and fortunately we arrive at this position with East on lead:*

*NORTH: S A D 9*

*EAST: H J C T*

*SOUTH: S QJ*

*WEST: S K6*

*East returns a Heart or Club and we ruff per force. West can over ruff with K but then North over ruffs and South's hand is high. If West ruffs low, he suffers a similar fate when North discards – effectively we grew an extra trump in dummy- a miracle! A **miracle** is an event not explicable by natural or scientific laws. Such an event may be attributed to a supernatural being (a deity), magic, a **miracle** worker, a saint or a religious leader. In Bridge a so-called "miracle" follows scientific law and no magic or the supernatural is required. But whatever the reason what pleasure to make the hand and, and again in the words of Mae West "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful."*

*Chris Bosenberg*

# MY FAVOURITE BRIDGE STORIES

## NUMBER 1 – “REDOUBLED!”

This one is by Ron Zucker, a well-known American bridge-player, based in Washington D. C., who writes about himself that *“I’m neither as good as I’d like to be nor as bad as I fear I am. I’m exactly the guy you play against most. I’m not incompetent, but you don’t fear me. Since I’m not good enough to be arrogant, I aim for polite instead.”*



Ron Zucker

This story starts off with *“my bidding is only funny. My declarer play is hilarious. But sometimes things are humorous, as opposed to merely strange, at the table”* and continues:

*“my personal favourite story from my own experience came in the days before bidding boxes. My two roommates and a friend, all of whom had just begun learning the game at college, went to the Baltimore unit game, as we did once a month. As it happened, the four of us faced off in a late round. We were all novices, but very competitive, so we were all nervous, not wanting to make a big mistake against our peers and friends. My LHO dealt and passed, as did my partner.*

*Unfortunately, RHO heard a 1♣ bid from another table. He looked down and saw an opening hand with 4-4 in the majors. Even we knew what to do with those! He confidently doubled.*

*I must admit that I was burned out and tired by then and was off in space. I heard my RHO double, so I looked carefully at my hand and counted 10+ HCP. Again, I knew what to do with that, so I smiled and redoubled. RHO and I were both proud. We’ve begun to figure out the whole bidding thing!*

*My LHO raised his hand and yelled, “DIRECTOR!” I was confused, but willing to wait out what Paul’s problem was.*

*The director showed up and asked, “What seems to be the problem?” “Well, we’re playing in redoubled.”*

*“Young man, WHAT redoubled???” “Nothing. Just redoubled...”*

*When the smoke and laughter cleared, we were each given an average minus. Them for being the bozo that doubled a pass, me for trying to accept it.”*

## OVERHEARD AT THE CLUB



North: *“Why 4♠? You could see that it didn’t have a chance. What’s wrong with 3NT?”*

South: *“I couldn’t go to no trumps! I was looking at Aces and spaces!!”*

North: *“The only \*#\*@\*#\* spaces are between your ears!!”*

## THIS MONTH’S BRIDGE CARTOON



*“My partner signals a lot!”*

