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THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow bridge players,

I felt honoured and privileged to have been appointed as the new GBU Chair at the AGM held on 17th March 2018. James Grant, my predecessor, is to be congratulated on being the new SABF President and I was thrilled when all the current committee members decided to stay on and we welcomed Tor Meyer as our new Treasurer. So now we are 7!

One of my partners told me you have not arrived as a bridge player until you have completed at least 20 years of competition and I haven't played that long yet, so I still have much to learn! In fact, I believe one learns continuously with bridge. I always marvel at the top players who still enthusiastically discuss difficult hands at the end of play. But I have never regretted my decision to learn the game and get involved. I have made many new friends and am so happy to be a member of the wider bridge family.

If you are just a club member and have not entered an open competition as yet I urge you to do so. They are fun and designed to cater for all standards of play and one really does learn a lot by playing against more experienced players. I was disappointed that the SABF National Bridge Congress held very recently in Johannesburg, while a most successful event, was not that well supported by local entrants. Those who did enter thoroughly enjoyed being part of the scene and I hope that next time the SABF Congress is held in Johannesburg many more local players will participate, and even make the journey to other parts to participate.

I would like to thank people who work for the good of bridge in the Gauteng area. They probably number about 20, and several are involved in more than one club or committee, and they put in many hours to provide enjoyable bridge events for our 900 GBU individual members. Johannesburg is so lucky to have a huge variety of bridge events (pairs and teams) in the area.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the words which I saw written on a Bridge@Orchards scorecard. It is so appropriate for all of us in the bridge family.

“Play hard – but keep it friendly and courteous

Be kind and tolerant towards weaker players

Maintain an even tempo

Keep up with the pace of play

Respect your opponent's right to receive full disclosure

Know your Conventions and explain them politely”

Yours in bridge,

Deirdre

Deirdre Ingersent (Chair, GBU)



AROUND THE CLUBS



The Royal Wedding on Saturday 19th May, as anticipated, severely reduced the numbers at Orchards' regular Saturday pairs' event. I actually fail to understand why!

It's not as if it was something important like the Cup Final!!



However, and rather unusually, 25% of those who got their priorities right that day were men! I wonder if this says anything?

The day's winners were:

North-South ... Helene Roberts & Ros Engelberg
East-West Jenny Milne & Lorraine Kinross

Remember to diarise Orchards' next big events:

Sunday 19th Aug Rita Jacobson Trophy

Sunday 9th Dec Bertha Cohen Pairs

Entries to all these full-day events can be made on www.gbu.co.za

**BE ALERT.
KEEP CALM.
THINK CLEARLY.
ACT DECISIVELY.**

The JBC continues in its quest to innovate and to provide new and different ideas to make bridge in Gauteng "better for all". Now, as winter starts to bite, and the nights draw in and get colder, we would like to reward our regulars and encourage past players and newcomers to play "WHERE THE BEST PLAYERS MEET" on Monday evenings at The Links. How? Well, it is bellowed out below by the man with the megaphone:



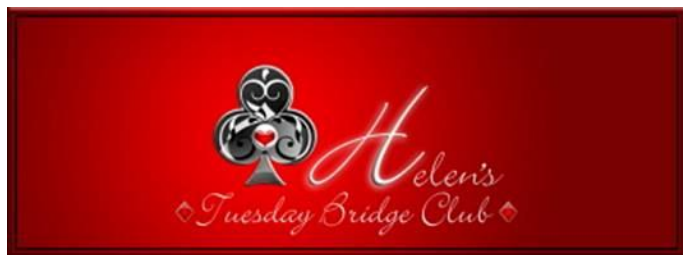
- GRADED PAIRS' EVENTS
- **ONLY R 50 PLAYING FEE**
- REGULAR PRIZES
- **REFRESHMENTS "ON-THE-GO"**
- ENTER BEFORE 19:20 IN PERSON **OR** BY "PHONE **OR** VIA WHATSAPP **OR** BY SMS
- **BE SEATED BY 19:30 SHARP TO END BY 22:30**

And if there is anything else, you the bridge-playing public feel we should be doing for you, please let us know in writing to our Secretary, Sheila Francis, using the email address jbcmembers@gmail.com. All your ideas will be welcomed and acknowledged!

Val Bloom

Val Bloom, Chair, JBC

MORE AROUND THE CLUBS



At “Helen’s Tuesday Bridge Club”, many members celebrate their birthdays with their fellow club members.

Paula Cohen who turned 80 recently, celebrated her special day with us all on April 10th, and on the 17th April, Phyllis Radford also celebrated her birthday – the second time that she has done so!

The Birthday Boys and Girls



standing: Rena Jedwood, Paula Cohen, William Smith, Doreen Cohen

seated: Billie Sack, Phyllis Radford

It is a testament to our members that our birthday ladies and men wish to share their happy day with us all at “Helen’s Tuesday Bridge Club”. They bring in cake and cookies in addition to my normal tea of very fresh sandwiches and fruit. Members are always delighted with these celebrations! When a member shares his or her birthday, I “up” the catering to more “party fare”, so there is a real camaraderie and party feel and everyone really enjoys the tea break. Paula also brought in balloons and birthday banners depicting her 80 years, and those special items really created the party ambience.

In the past, Rena Jedwood, Billie Sack, Doreen Cohen and William Smith, to mention just a few, have also celebrated with the members; one of the benefits of belonging to my more “personal” club.

Helen Hagan

THE GENTLE TOURNAMENT

The Links initiated “The Gentle Tournament” a couple of months ago, to introduce newcomers and social players to the tournament scene, but in a relaxed and fun environment. To date, more than 70 players have experienced what it's like to play competitive duplicate bridge, with many of them returning for more.



We'd like to thank everyone who has pushed their friends to take the plunge, and to encourage others to give it a try.

We know that there are literally hundreds of social bridge players who feel intimidated by what they see as the complicated rules-and-regulations governing formal competitive bridge; they may be further intimidated by what they have heard about (the very few) nasty players who prey on newcomers. The Gentle Tournament is just that – gentle and welcoming!

We play every other Saturday. The schedule is on our website, or you can telephone or WhatsApp Robert Stephens on 072 431 6599 for information. Players are welcome to arrive on the day as either an individual or a pair, and they'll be guaranteed to have a game.

Peta Feinstein

THIS AND THAT

A LITTLE BIT OF LAW - NUMBER 2

A QUERY ABOUT REVOKES

A club tournament director wrote in to David Stevenson as follows: *"The last five cards are left to play, declarer in 4 hearts. All trumps have been cleared. Dummy has the KQJT of diamonds and the spade Ace. Declarer has Axx of diamonds and two small clubs. He leads the K from dummy and discards a club! Then the Q, discarding another club!! Then came the J of diamonds to declarer's Ace, opponents screaming 'revoke'. My question is "Should two tricks be transferred to the non-offending side, even though the revokes made no difference to the outcome? This seems to be a careless error on the part of declarer who was probably thinking a few tricks ahead. What's the ruling?"*



David Stevenson

Well, it is only a two-trick penalty when the player wins the trick by revoking. In this case, dummy won the trick with declarer revoking, so it is a one trick penalty. **I never understand why players think that revoke penalties are harsh! Players spoil the game for others by not concentrating and by ignoring the most basic of rules - follow suit! I feel revoke penalties are necessary to keep players in line.**

Again, I must re-iterate that there is very little that is automatic in judging these situations, each of which must be treated on its own merits. **Never decide these cases yourself. That's what the TD is for!**

WHAT'S IN A NAME - NUMBER 2

"YARBOROUGH"

A Yarborough is a bridge hand of 13 cards that contains no 'honour', that is, no card higher in rank than a nine. Here's one I held recently! Lovely, isn't it?



It is named after Charles Anderson Worsley Anderson-Pelham, Lord Worsley and 2nd Earl of Yarborough, 1809-1862, an 18th-century English nobleman, *pictured right*, who, tired of hearing his colleagues complain of holding worthless cards, laid 1 000 - 1 odds against holding such a bad hand.

He did well since the true odds are closer to 2 000 - 1. Not bad, when you consider that there are 635 013 559 600 possible bridge hands!

Stephen Rosenberg



LET'S PLAY! SOME HANDS TO DELIGHT AND ASTOUND YOU!

Triskaidekaphobia is fear or avoidance of the number 13. It is also a reason for the fear of Friday the 13th, called paraskevidekatriphobia or friggatriskaidekaphobia.



Peter Bircher writes: "I am not particularly superstitious. However, whenever Friday, the 13th approaches, I am relieved if I have not planned any long trips or doing anything physical that may result in injury. DIY jobs are left for Saturday the 14th! When April 13th fell on a Friday I thought at least all I have to do is to get to bridge and back, a total distance of 4 Km; in Margate, a leisurely drive at even the worst of times.

13	♠ KQJ73	Dir: N Vul: Both
	♥ K10 ♦ A95 ♣ K107	
	♠ 942 ♥ 7 ♦ QJ7 ♣ A98432	

After 5 rounds things had gone pretty well and, according to the scrolling results screen, we were lying in a healthy second spot. However, on board 13, surely an omen, things took a turn for the worse.

We managed to bid to the optimum contract of 4♠ by North, and after the **LOL*** on my left led the six of clubs, I had a look at dummy. I concluded that I had to lose a heart, a trump and possibly a diamond. The clubs? Maybe a loser there as well but then the long clubs would surely provide parking spots for any diamond losers.

I won West's jack with the king and led a trump, won by West who returned a heart, my king losing to the ace. The five of clubs was continued. I took stock. East had led the 6 and then the 5, clearly a doubleton. I went up with the ace expecting to nail the queen. Startled I saw my ace ruffed and now realized I had to lose another club as well and the iron-clad contract had gone up in smoke. East had

managed to under-lead her 3-card club suit headed by the queen not once, but *twice* in an uncanny display in equal parts of bravado and deception.

At the conclusion of the deal I turned to the **LOL*** on my left and, although totally silent, could have sworn I heard a gleeful **LOL*!** (* LOL = Little Old Lady / Laugh Out Loud)

Most of the field made 11 tricks after other (non-club) leads, taking a correct view in the club suit.

Upon analysis, the LOL had found the only lead to stop me making 11 tricks and in fact gave me a chance to go down. You will understand why I still don't like Friday the 13th!"

13	♠ KQJ73	Dir: N Vul: Both
	♥ K10 ♦ A95 ♣ K107	
♠ A8	♠ 1065	
♥ 86543	♥ AQJ92	
♦ K8432	♦ 106	
♣ J	♣ Q65	
	♠ 942	
16	♥ 7	
8 9	♦ QJ7	
7	♣ A98432	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N	S	E	W
	5	-	-	4	1			
	5	-	-	4	1			
	-	-	3	-	-			
	-	-	3	-	-			



And yes, it really happened in Margate, again!

Peter Bircher

SID'S PLAYING QUIZ - TO FINESSE OR NOT?



by Sid Ismail

In this hand, West is dealer, neither pair is vulnerable. You are sitting South and reach a contract of 4H, with no interference from your opposition. Here are your hands:

<u>North</u> 752 T873 AJT JT6
<u>South</u> AKJ AKQJ4 K72 87

West leads CA-CK then a small club to East's Queen. How would you play this? It may look like a finesser's paradise and you might draw trumps, ending in dummy to finesse the SJ. If that loses, and a spade is returned, you are on a two-way 50/50 guess for the DQ, and you deserve to get it wrong! So, again, how would you play this?

Answer at the foot of page 9.

In the mid-1980s, *Barbara Smith* wrote a bridge column in the Financial Mail. She has kindly allowed us to reproduce them in our publications, and here's one, entitled

A BATTLE TO BREAK EVEN

N
 ♠ K 7 6 4
 ♥ 9 7 6 5 2
 ♦ A Q 5
 ♣ J

W
 ♠ J 9 5
 ♥ Q J 8 4
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ Q 8 6

E
 ♠ Q 10 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 9 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 7 4 2

S
 ♠ A 8
 ♥ A K 10 3
 ♦ K J 4
 ♣ A K 5 3

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
		2 NT	Pass
		(20-22)	
3 ♦*	Pass	4 ♥**	Pass
5 ♥***	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass			Pass

* 3 ♦ — showing two four-card majors
 ** 4 ♥ — showing a four-card heart suit
 *** 5 ♥ — how good are your hearts?
 Opening lead: 7 diamonds

One of the fascinating things about contract bridge is the way tricks can suddenly materialise, as if by magic. If you're on the receiving end, of course, your certainties sometimes vanish into thin air.

The bidding on this hand was very simple and it did not take long for my partner and I to reach a contract of six hearts. West led the seven of diamonds, and the prospects looked pretty pleasing. In fact with a reasonable lie of the heart suit, I might even make all 13 tricks!

I won the diamond lead with the Queen and played a small heart from dummy. To my dismay East discarded the two of clubs. The contract appeared hopeless, for after all West had four hearts to the Queen, Jack, over the Ace, King.

I was about to concede that I had to go one down, when I suddenly remembered all the books I'd ever read. Sometimes a seemingly impossible contract can be made on a certain distribution of the cards. Could West be stripped of

all his cards except his trumps? If so, he could be thrown in and end-played. There were two possibilities which would allow me to make my slam; if West's distribution was 3-4-3-3, or if he had four clubs and four hearts.

I decided to investigate. After winning the Ace of hearts, I played a diamond to the Ace. I noted very carefully West's play of the eight of diamonds. This suggested he could have started with just three diamonds. Now I played a club to the Ace and trumped a club. I then played a spade to the Ace in my hand. On the King of clubs, West now played the Queen. It certainly seemed that West had precisely three clubs and three spades.

I now cashed my King of diamonds, played a spade to the King and trumped a spade.

This was the three card ending:

North	♥ 976
West	♥ QJ8
South	♥ K10
	♣ 5

When I played the five of clubs, West was fixed; there was no way he could stop me winning another two tricks! The nine in dummy made sure of that.

I was very happy to have made the hand. Unfortunately, I knew there was going to be no gain for our team on the board, because the declarer playing my hand in the other room was Brian Mervis, one of our top players. I knew that Brian wasn't going to have any trouble with this one, and I was right, but I consoled myself that at least we had not lost on the board!

The hand was played in the qualifying round-robin to select four Transvaal/North Western Transvaal teams for the Pioneer tournament, run somewhat on the lines of the Gold Cup in Britain, with teams from Natal, Western Province and Eastern Province. The tournament was won by one of the Transvaal teams, consisting of Neville Eber, Brian Mervis, Duggie Ettlinger, Bertie Broer, Jeff Sapire and Frank Cillie.

I hope to discuss some of the highlights of this tournament in my next column.

Barbara Smith

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 or WharsApp him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.



Jeff Sapiro

NUMBER 10 - DISTRIBUTION REIGNS SUPREME!

The hand below, which I witnessed last week, was yet another sensational example of what happens when freak hands with crazy distribution are dealt:

Dlr:	Jxxx	
East	xx	
Vul: No	xx	
	KTxxx	
ATxxx		KQxx
KTxxx		AQxxx
K		Tx
xx		Jx
	--	
	J	
	AQJxxxx	
	AQxx	

The bidding went like this:

West	North	East	North
		1H	5D
5H	P	P	6D
X	A	All Pass	

West led the SA. There wasn't much to the play. Declarer ruffed the spade lead, and not wanting to risk going to dummy with a club to take the trump finesse, she laid down the ace of diamonds. When the king fell, she drew a second trump and ran off the clubs, discarding her heart loser to make all 13 tricks – notching up a very satisfactory +1190.

I was asked to comment on the bidding, and also on the choice of opening lead.

Dealing with the second issue first, I can find no fault with the lead, though it cost a doubled overtrick. If declarer was going to ruff anything, it was surely going to be a heart, and West could consider herself unlucky. (Of course, even 6D doubled, making, without the overtrick is bad enough – but we are trying to be as objective as possible).

As to the bidding; I found it quite difficult to point any fingers, despite the shocking result for East/West.

I guess some people wouldn't jump to 5D on such a strong hand, but sometimes pre-empts can be based on good hands, especially when very shapely. It's sort of 'bidding what you think you might make.'

West's 5H seems automatic, and when it swung around to South, in a sense she broke the rule of bidding again, but here it was surely the right action. It just doesn't pay, mostly, to defend on hands like this. For all South knew, her opponents could have been cold for 5H, with 6D a cheap save.

Finally, what about West's double? Well, from her viewpoint, it certainly sounded like South was 'saving' against 5H, so double seems reasonable. Obviously, she couldn't rely on any heart tricks (little did she know!), but with the ace of spades and the king of diamonds (which might make), plus a little something in partner's hand, 6D looked to be going down.

Someone suggested that perhaps west should have continued to 6H (3 down assuming the defence get their spade ruff) for -500; cheap as against -1190. It would have been a big winning decision here, but I confess it's not a bid I'd have seriously considered.

Jeff Sapiro

TRUMP COUPS AND TISSUES!

Picture the scene: It's the South African Nationals ... Mid-June, 1999 ... Play: Teams-of-Four. We were pitted against players from Zimbabwe whom we met for the first time. One of the players had a bad cold, and there were tissues and handkerchiefs appearing in rapid succession from his pockets. I moved my chair slightly away from him in case I caught a germ. North/South were Tom Bourdillon and Andrew Brooke respectively; sitting East/West were Sid (Ismail) and Abby, the writers. This was Board 9.

In the other room, our partners were in 4H making, +1 for +650.

Tom
 ♠_98532
 ♥ A3
 ♦ A7
 ♣QJ85



Andrew
 ♠_7
 ♥ KQ10986
 ♦ KQ5
 ♣ AK4

Contract: 6♥.
 Lead: ♠K.

Andrew was in 6♥ and received the lead of the ♠K, and a spade continuation.

He ruffed, and promptly played a trump to the ace and a trump to his king and was rudely awakened to the 4-1 split, J752 sitting on his right.

At this stage Andrew's sniffs promptly disappeared (!!), and he went into the "think-tank" for a full 5 minutes, then played zip, zip, zip, at lightning-fast speed:

♦K, ♦A, spade ruff, ♣A, ♣K, and another club to the lady. He now played the ♣J and announced: "Give up?"

"Yes" was the meek reply, for I was truly *trump-couped*. If I discard my diamond, Andrew does like-wise, and the ensuing spade "finesses" me.

So that's +1430 to the invaders from the North.

The other two hands were:

Abby
 ♠KQ106
 ♥ 3
 ♦J9432
 ♣632

Sid
 ♠AJ4
 ♥J752
 ♦1086
 ♣1097

Andrew announces with some relish: "Up to this stage I have only read about this, er, er, Trump Coup. Now I have effected one!"

And yet another set of tissues routinely appears!

Sid Ismail

MY FAVOURITE BRIDGE STORY

Some years ago, a number of leading American bridge players were asked to recount their favourite, humorous bridge stories. This one is by Bob Heitzman *pictured right* and is the first in our series featuring the late John Lowenthal; it is a suitable introduction to this great player!



"My favourite bridge story is one that Phil Martin wrote about the late John Lowenthal. John was playing in a tournament with one of his wives (he had several during his life), who apparently was a weak player and was having a very rough night.

His wife opened 2♦ and John passed. Left hand opponent balanced with 2♠. This came back around to John, who bid 3♦. Lefty now bid 3♠, which was again passed around to John. This time John bid 6NT, which became the final contract. John proceeded to make it on some kind of exotic squeeze. Lefty was very upset and demanded an explanation as to why John had bid the way he did.

His response: "My wife has had a tough night and hasn't been able to make a contract yet. When she opened 2♦, I passed because I thought she could make that. When you competed with 2♠, I bid 3♦, which I also thought she could make. When you bid 3♠, I didn't think she could make 4♦, so I bid what I thought I could make."

I don't know if this story was true or not. For me, it exemplifies what I remember about John. He was a very kind person who wanted his partner to have a good time at the table. He was also a master card player who was quite capable of visualizing during the auction and executing during the play the most exotic of squeezes."

STILL TO COME

Start diarising and entering for these events on the SABF web-site:

There are all the Unions' Mini Congresses to come; Bridge@Orchards' Rita Jacobson and Bertha Cohen Trophies, The Links' Pierre du Toit Tournament, the NGBU's Jan Prins Pairs and many more Gauteng tournaments – details as I get them.

SABF INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams and Pairs
Durban (Venue TBA)
1 – 4 November

Stephen Rosenberg

SID'S PLAY QUIZ SOLUTION!

First, here's the full deal:

	♠ 7 5 2	
	♥ 10 8 7 3	
	♦ A J 10	
	♣ J 10 6	
♠ Q 10 6		♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ 5 2		♥ 9 6
♦ 9 8 6 4		♦ Q 5 3
♣ AK 5 2		♣ Q 9 4 3
	♠ AKJ	
	♥ AKQJ4	
	♦ K 7 2	
	♣ 8 7	

Strangely enough, you should NOT take any finesses at all! The contract is guaranteed unless the hearts split 4-0, and the odds on that are long. So, draw your trumps – they fall beautifully 2-2. Now, play spades from the top, and lose the Jack to the Queen. But, whoever wins the spade is in an unenviable position; a black suit return will yield a ruff-and-sluff, while a diamond return will find the Queen for you. Four hearts bid and made, and not a finesse in sight!

Sid Ismail

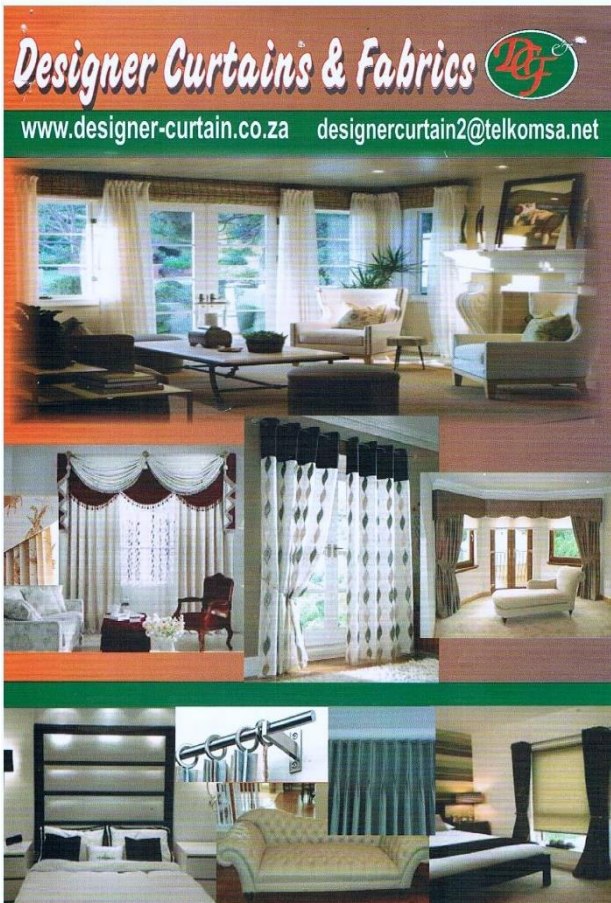
SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

IT AIN'T CURTAINS YET!

Those of you who have been in the "Salon Privé" at The Links lately couldn't but help notice the new curtains. Practical and stylish, hey?



They were provided to us, and at a very, very good price by one of our JBC members, Ebrahim Moosa, through his affiliate in Valley View Centre, Cedar Road, Fourways



You could hardly do better than give them a try next time you need curtains or fabrics. Just call them on 011 467 4967 or 011 465 0053.

SHE TAKES THE BISCUIT!

The JBC has tweaked its Pairs' format on Monday evenings at The Links (see page 2). The "refreshments-on-the-go" consist of the usual teas-and-coffee, with the addition of a selection of assorted home-baked biscuits.



These fresh and delicious biscuits are the product of regular bridge-player, Sharon Sofer. Contact her at **LOVESOME** on 011 483 3434 or by email to yum@lovesome.co.za to place your cupcake and biscuit order.

SAY IT WITH COLOUR!

And who could miss the magnificent displays of cut flowers that have adorned The Links of late.



These are the work of another regular bridge-player Lyn Abdinor. You can contact her to order your personalised displays at **BUNCHES @ GardenShop** corner Jan Smuts Avenue and Bolton Road Rosebank. Telephone 011 880 2890.

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