



MY MESSAGE TO YOU



Peta Feinstein -
Chairwoman

As 2017 draws to a close, we reflect on it as having been another positive year for The Links. We bade farewell to Pierre, but will continue to see his presence at the table, enjoying his well-earned retirement. And we welcomed Rob Stephens, who has taken on the role as General Manager with vigour and tremendous spirit.

A very big thank you to the committee without whom the success at The Links would not be possible: Bernard Scop – Vice Chair, Rob Stephens, Rosemary Mason, Bruna Levitan, Fiona Cassel and Sharon Taitz.

A very special thanks to our catering committee, Fiona and particularly, Rose and Bruna, who have undertaken the enormous task of feeding you all, with great gusto. This is no mean feat and I applaud you for the manner in which you have undertaken this responsibility.

Thanks to our registrars, Dylan and Luca, who work under enormous pressure to maintain successful registration and administration of our tournaments.

To our directors, Deirdre Ingersent, Helen Kagan, Helen Kruger, Kit Gilmour, Lotte Sorensen, Rob Stephens, Sid Ismail and Stephen Rosenberg, thank you for giving up your Saturday afternoons for our enjoyment, and for tolerating abuse on occasions from some ill behaved players. Tournament directing involves more than just walking around during play, fixing bridge scorers and making judgements. Overseeing registration, table movements, managing the placing of bridge scorers and boards on tables, keeping up to date with new rules by attending courses, are all part of your endless task.

Let us not forget our other staff who work endlessly to maintain the premises, tend to your gastronomic needs and keep you safe. Thank you to Abe Makgata, Joanne Khome, Johannes Mahloana and Richard Ramokorna.

It would be remiss of me not to make special mention of three people who work very hard, unnoticed, behind the scenes, to make The Links the successful club it is:

- ♥ To Bernard Scop and Rob Stephens, I know the endless hours you contribute on our computer systems and hardware and other matters.
- ♥ To Lotte Sorensen, always ready to step in quietly whenever and wherever needed.

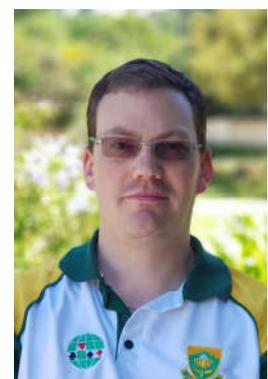
To them and all the players that frequent our club, I can only say **Thank You!**

We wish you all a joyous festive season with your families and look forward to seeing you back safe and sound in 2018.

Best wishes,
Peta Feinstein
Chairperson - The Links
Saturday Afternoon



Pierre Du Toit



Rob Stephens

2018 brings many exciting innovations, along with some challenges:-



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@TheLinksBridgeClub

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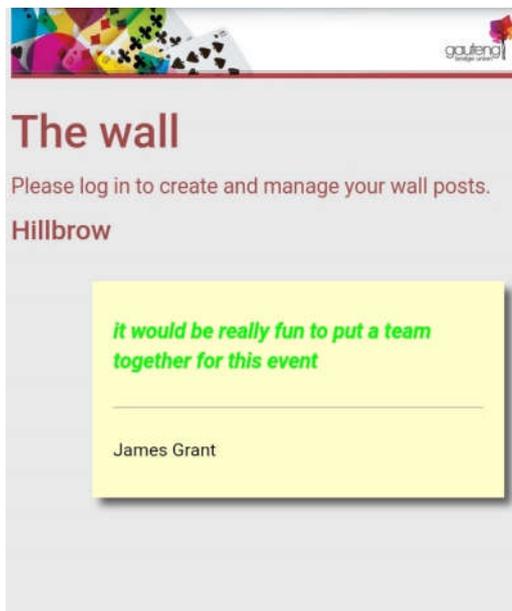
FACEBOOK

The Links has its own Facebook page. Like or follow us to keep up with the latest news and events.



PARTNERSHIP DESK

We have initiated other measures to find a partner:



GBU WEBSITE

A partnership desk has been implemented on the GBU website allowing you to find a partner for any club. It's been called, "The Wall", and you'll need to log into GBU in order to create a new post advertising your availability.

WHATSAPP

Join our WhatsApp Group – Partnership Desk.

Contact Rob Stephens on 066 204 2450 to add you to the group, giving you the opportunity to contact members via WhatsApp.

VOUCHER SYSTEM

As from 2018, we'll be initiating a voucher system for table fees. The benefit of this is convenience for both players, and the club. Players can buy sets of vouchers with cash, or more conveniently by EFT.



We have a sophisticated computer system which will perform certain administrative functions:

- ♣ When an EFT is received, the date and amount will be logged.
- ♣ The system will generate the vouchers using your SABF number and name as references.
- ♣ When the voucher is used to pay for a tournament, the registrar will record it.
- ♣ Each voucher is numbered. If vouchers are lost the system can reprint the remaining unused vouchers.
- ♣ If someone tries to reuse a voucher, the system will reject it to prevent possible fraud.
- ♣ After each tournament, the system will send an email to the players who used a voucher that day. The email will indicate the date played and also list the number and details of the vouchers remaining for the player.

We encourage you all to make use of the voucher system for convenience.

EFT Details:
The Links Bridge Club
Bidvest Bank A/C #: 398853001
Branch: 462005

RELAXED PLAY

Our bridge population is dwindling, and we find the need to encourage newcomers.

There are social players, and beginners terrified to face the overwhelming tournament environment with all the rules and terriers waiting to get hold of them.

To ease these players into tournament bridge slowly, we will be holding a "Relaxed Play" tournament every two weeks.

This section will play separately in the small room, have their own tournament director, and rules and time constraints will be relaxed.

The only requirement is that they must have a basic knowledge of bidding and play.

This will not be supervised bridge but a proper tournament.

If you know of such people, please ask them to get in touch with us.

thelinks@netactive.co.za / 011 640 1914

2018 FEES

The table fee on a Saturday afternoon will remain the same at R70 for members and R90 for non members. The annual membership fee also stays the same at R220, with the SABF annual fee at R200 (only payable at any one club).

Membership and Voucher payments may be made by bank EFT.

Make sure to include your name and SABF number as your reference.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Unfortunately not all our players behave in a manner conducive to a warm, friendly environment. Being competitive does not mean having to be unfriendly and aggressive.

We have had a number of inappropriate incidents we have had to address, along with complaints about unnecessary aggression, hostility, and discourteousness at the table:

- ♣ Players have fought with and challenged directors, creating scenes in public.
- ♣ Some players shout at their partners during play and after a hand has been played.
- ♣ Players do not greet their opponents or are just rude.
- ♣ Some North/South pairs do not allow East/West to check their scores on the bridge scorers or to see their percentages at the end of each round.

Our challenge is to rid The Links of a reputation as being belligerent and hostile – a place to avoid.

In this regard we wish to notify you that our policy of Zero Tolerance will be driven rigidly in the new year:

- ◆ If you wish to challenge a director's ruling, there is an appeal form available in the office. Anyone found challenging a director in public will be disciplined, to the extent that, if necessary, the director may be required, and has the committee's permission, to remove you from the table.
- ◆ We ask players to stop shouting at their partners. Besides being bad manners and disrespectful, it is very disconcerting for the opponents. Should anyone find a player doing this, please report it. That player, no matter who it is, will be addressed individually and privately, and if necessary, further action will be taken.

- ◆ The process for scoring requires North to input the score and pass it to East or West to be checked and verified. It is **NOT** for North to verify the score or to withhold the device from East/West. It is a requirement, not a request, that North pass the scorer to East/West after the hands have been played, to allow them to view their scores. Should any East/West pair come up against an unwilling North, please call the tournament director immediately. North will be disciplined if there is non-compliance.

While bridge in nature is a competitive game, and generally brings out aggression in people, aggressive behavior is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Courtesy and gamesmanship cost nothing, but make a big difference to each player's enjoyment and afternoon's entertainment.

We ask you all please for your cooperation and hope that it will not be necessary address this matter again.

FUN

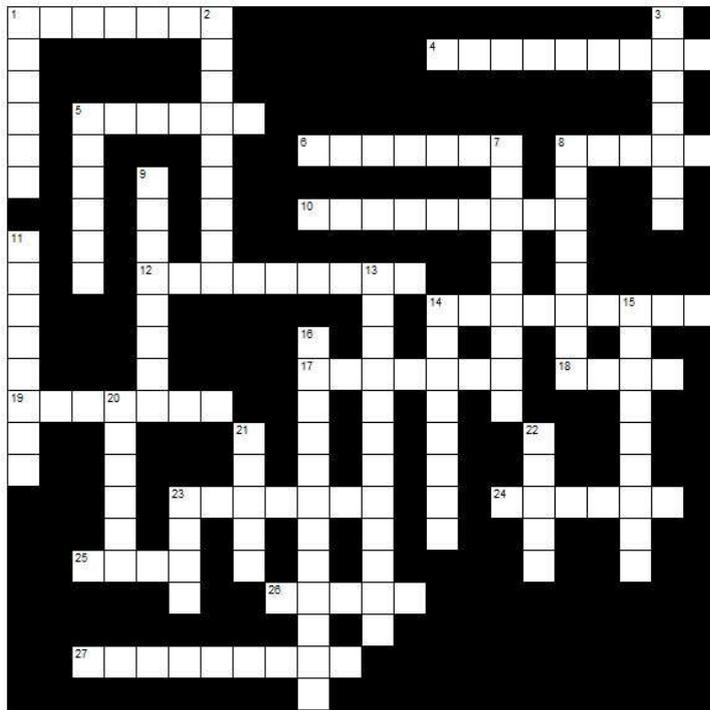
First member of The Links to correctly complete and submit the crossword



below, will win themselves a free game on a Saturday afternoon.

Submissions can be sent to thelinks@netactive.co.za

The Links and Bridge inspired Crossword



Across

1. The conventional meanings assigned to plays made by the defenders in order to exchange information.
4. A convention that allows one to enquire about keycards at a lower level for minor suit slams.
5. The person who has recently retired as the manager of The Links.
6. A playing technique that forces the defender(s) to discard a vital card, usually an apparent winner.
8. The current SABF master-point leader in the country, and prominent teacher at The Links.
10. A holding of exactly two cards in a suit.
12. A common conventional agreement following a 1NT rebid, searching for an unbid major suit or a preference to responder's major.
14. A card played with the intention of deceiving an opponent as to one's true holding. Also, the act of making such a play.
17. The name of the convention where one opens 4C or 4D as good preempts in the respective majors.
18. The card usually used before making a jump bid.
19. A play that throws an opponent in, which usually forces them to either give away a trick in one suit, or create a ruff and discard in another.
23. To mix the cards. With the advent of computer programs and pre-dealt hands, players no longer have to do this before a tournament begins.

24. A squeeze made possible with a technique of unblocking a threat card (...coup)
25. Chairwoman of The Links
26. Average number of tables at The Links in 2017
27. The casino in Secunda that's hosting a bridge tournament early next year, with R15000 in prizes.

Down

1. The only day of the week in which there isn't a regular game at The Links.
2. A contract that was deliberately bid in the expectation of going down, in the hope of a penalty smaller than the opponents' expected score from making a contract they had bid.
3. A 4-3 trump fit, named after The Bridge World editor Alphonse "Sonny" Moyse Jr.
5. A type of squeeze that puts pressure on the opponent to discard the wrong card and is not a pure squeeze.
7. To make winners of the remaining cards in a suit by playing or forcing out higher cards.
8. The Links will host this national tournament in 2018.
9. The most common movement used at The Links in which N/S stays seated and E/W moves after every round.
11. The age of The Links in 2017.
13. These trials were recently held at The Links, to select the national team for 2018.
14. A conventional opening bid of two diamonds to show 11-15 HCP with 5 hearts and 4 spades.
15. A play designed to keep a particular defender off lead, often to prevent the lead of a suit through a tenace position in either declarer's hand or dummy.
16. A bid that is not higher than the immediately preceding bid, and is therefore illegal.
20. A call that grossly misstates high card strength or distribution, made so as to deceive the opponents.
21. The lowest spot card. In signaling, it is the only unambiguous card.
22. A win by a sufficiently wide margin in IMPs to earn the maximum possible number of victory points (VP's).
23. A contract to win at least twelve tricks.