



THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

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FROM THE CHAIR

The question I am most often asked at the moment is when are we going to be able to re-open our live bridge clubs? The GBU will be guided by the SABF in this matter and the answer is in all probability the new year. Will vaccination certificates be mandatory? In all probability – yes. As organisers, our main concern is that we want live bridge to be safe. The age of our participants is known to make it worse for an individual if he/she should contract COVID. It's played in an indoor area, in close proximity to one another, with not much ventilation. We want to be responsible and not start a 'super-spreader'.

I had the pleasure of having lunch recently – live, outdoors and socially distanced, with Sugar Rhodes who has the distinction of playing more than any other Gauteng player in The Links' events. On the day of their 1000th Celebration Bridge Event held recently, she had played 850 times, with a variety of partners, and if no one is available she picks up a robot! She is 85 years old (but one would

never think it!), so every day she plays morning and afternoon at an online 'The Links' event. Her story, in her own words, as to why she plays so much bridge goes like this:

“Having owned and run, hands on, a game lodge (which means full time work 7 days a week, 365 days a year) until I turned 80 and sadly became a widow after 58 years of marriage, I turned to tennis, golf and bridge to fill my days, naturally with a spot of charity thrown in. I then survived cancer, but that ruled out the sport, so it was bridge, bridge, and more bridge! I always led a very busy, blessed and active life and would love to do so still, but happily I can still exercise my brain!”

I know of many other players in their 80s, and indeed some are even in their 90s, still playing bridge, and many persevered with learning BBO and/or RealBridge when COVID struck. Fantastic! I admire you all and to steal the words of the very popular Strictly Come Dancing T.V. programme, Keep Playing!

Also, please keep Sunday, December 5th free! I am giving you advance notice of a Quickie (one day only!) End-of-Year Red Point Pairs Event which the GBU will be staging. Open to all, BBO format, R200 per pair and organized by our own super-efficient Robert Stephens. A poster advertising it on email and WhatsApp groups will be brought out nearer the time.

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 nicky@chasingdreamspublishing.com



THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

In suit contracts, trump control is a vital part of good declarer play. On some hands, even a long, strong trump suit sometimes needs to be carefully handled, especially when there is a lot of outside work.

When North tabled the dummy in today's hand, he felt a little uneasy about the trump support, but he had no idea how important his little two of trumps was. His partner, sad to say, did not appreciate its real value.

<p>Dir. West ♠ 876432 Vul. Both ♥ 2 ♦ QJ92 ♣ 84</p>	<p>♠ A9 ♠ J105 ♥ 10974 ♥ 86 ♦ 83 ♦ A76 ♣ AKJ72 ♣ Q10953</p>
<p>♠ KQ ♥ AKQJ53 ♦ K1054 ♣ 6</p>	

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	P	2 ♣	4 ♥
All Pass			

Opening Lead: C ♣

Bidding:

After East had raised clubs, South's options were either to double, or take a shot at the heart game. With slam most unlikely against the opposition bidding, he chose the practical route of bidding the long, solid hearts; the less you tell your opponents on these hands, the better.

Play:

EXAMPLE 1 – Keeping an entry in dummy:

	♠ A86	
	♥ 542	
	♦ KQJ9	
	♣ 1092	
♠ 1032		♠ 4
♥ Q6		♥ J1097
♦ 854		♦ A732
♣ KQ764		♣ J853
	♠ KQJ975	
	♥ AK83	
	♦ 106	
	♣ A	

Contract: 6 ♠ by South

Opening Lead: K ♣

South wins opening lead with his singleton club Ace. Next, he draws two rounds of trumps with K and Q, leaving Ace in dummy. When the suit doesn't break, declarer stops drawing trumps and concentrates on setting up the diamond suit.

East holds off to the 2nd round, then wins with his Ace and returns another diamond, on which declarer discards a losing heart. Declarer now plays dummy's Ace of trumps and discards his last heart loser on the set up diamond.

EXAMPLE 2 – Keeping trump control:

	♠ J52	
	♥ 762	
	♦ J9	
	♣ AQ1073	
♠ 3		♠ 9876
♥ KQ94		♥ A1083
♦ K763		♦ 52
♣ K952		♣ J84
	♠ AKQ104	
	♥ J5	
	♦ AQ1084	
	♣ 6	

Contract: 4 ♠ by South

Opening Lead: K ♥

Three rounds of hearts are played, declarer ruffing the third, reducing South's hand to four trumps. Declarer cannot afford to draw trumps. Now declarer starts on the diamond suit. He leads small to J ♦ and back to his hand, overtaking 9 with 10 and West wins with his king. Declarer notices East played 5,2 (high, low) so two cards. West continues with a diamond which dummy trumps with J ♠. Declarer now draws remaining trumps and easily gets the rest with his established diamonds.

If declarer had drawn two rounds of trumps and then started diamonds, he could have ruffed the third round with J ♠, but couldn't get back to his hand. He might try A ♣ and ruff a club, but then he would have only one trump left to his opponents' two. The contract would have gone down.

EXAMPLE 3 – Keeping extra trump entries for repeating finesses:

	♠ KQ3	
	♥ K976	
	♦ 752	
	♣ 764	
♠ 84		♠ 952
♥ QJ103		♥ A852
♦ 93		♦ K104
♣ AK832		♣ J105
	♠ AJ1076	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AQJ86	
	♣ Q9	

Contract: 4 ♠ by South

Opening Lead: K ♣

South bid spades and hearts en route to a 4 ♠ contract. West played his A,K ♣ for two tricks and then switched to Q ♥. Won by East – the heart return was ruffed. Declarer now plays Ace trumps and a small trump to Queen. A diamond is led from dummy's hand and when East plays low, J is inserted for a successful finesse. Declarer now draws opponents' last trump by playing to king in dummy. Another diamond led from dummy and he finesses to queen. This wins and now contract is made.

P.S. It is important to study the hands well as declarer and not play too fast to the first trick as the whole hand strategy need to be clearly thought out from the start.



THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Submitted by **Roz Bernstein**

When Deirdre asked me to write an article as to what advice I would give to up and coming players, my thoughts went back all those years to all the enjoyment the game has given me.

Bridge was not a word in my vocabulary until I met my late husband Michael who told me he was a good bridge player!

I realised then my only option was to learn the game or else become a bridge widow! It is one of the best decisions I have made.

Bridge is a complex game becoming more so as you progress. The game you played as a beginner, bears little resemblance to your later game.

You need to decide on your bridge aspirations: Do you want to be a social player, a club player or a tournament player?

There are no wrong decisions.

Having identified your aspirations as a tournament player the next decision is with whom to embark on your journey.

In this article I have decided to focus on partnership, and the importance of establishing a successful and compatible partnership.

Remember, bridge is like war, but with only 10% of the risk. Your partner is the only person in the room not trying to “do you in”. While your partner does not have to be your best friend, you have to be compatible and enjoy the time in the trenches and at the table.

There are a couple of unwritten rules that will assist in the forming of a successful partnership:

1. Treat your partner with respect and as an equal. Offer encouragement when necessary.
2. Tolerate your partner's errors. Bridge is a game of errors (your partner is going to have to tolerate your errors).
3. Own up to your errors.
4. Conduct post-mortems away from the table.
5. Show a united front at the table. The played hand is scored and no discussions are going to revive the “patient”.
6. Treat your partner with the same grace, whether you win or lose. Most importantly at the table, nobody should be able to read your “bridge face”.
7. Deal with disasters, nobody goes for 1700 on purpose.
8. Play each new board on its own merit as if it was board 1 of the tournament.
9. Never punish your partner for previous mistakes or even ones in this particular hand. Assume your partner has got it right.
10. Remember, we are playing bridge because we enjoy the game!

It is exceptionally rewarding to develop a partnership, learning new systems, debating what you give, by incorporating new bids and working on defences. Over time you develop a sense of your partner's style of bidding and play. Is your partner ultra aggressive or very conservative? If you and your partner have a good understanding, you will be able to anticipate how your partner will react to a bid or follow the line of defence. Knowing that your partner will inevitably make the bid, you at least want to hear, what is your response. This needs to be planned before reaching for the bidding box.

Time at the table is invaluable, but time away from the table equally as important. You need to be able to discuss and disagree and have a mechanism to resolve the disagreements – this is usually an experienced third party. Remember it is more important that the partnership develop, than whether you are right.

Not all partners will have the same aspirations as you, and rather than sour a friendship (if you have different goals), move on from the partnership. Ultimately, if you can find a partner with whom you are compatible in your aspirations and ethos, nurture the partnership. The most important feature of

any successful partnership is communication, both at and away from the table. The rewards of building a partnership are immense. The more time and effort expended, the greater the reward. The greater the success, the more personal satisfaction. Ultimately you want to have fun as well, but know, the more success you want the harder you and your partner have to work.

So make certain as you embark on your bridge journey that you have across the table a friend, who shares your goals, ethos, work ability, endurance and sense of humour. Ultimately, you want to enjoy the game, and finding a compatible partner is the first step.

About the Author:

A top player, Roz Bernstein has represented South Africa on a number of occasions and is a long-standing member of the SABF Committee.



THE GREYVILLE 2021

Submitted by **Peter Bircher**

Sunday, Hand 14*

South declares in 4 hearts after North had bid spades and diamonds*

	Dummy	You are West and lead a diamond, won in dummy with the ace.
	♠ KQ943	Declarer cashes A-K-Q of spades discarding a diamond on the 3rd round. He then cashes the A-K of trumps and then the jack, East showing out. In with the queen of trumps you must decide what card to lead next.
	♥ 3	
West	♦ A1042	Declarer has shown up with precisely 6 hearts, 2 spades and at least 2 diamonds. What are his other 3 cards? You watched declarer pitch a diamond, so assume he has no more leaving him with 3 clubs.
	♣ A106	
	♠ 1072	
	♥ Q864	
	♦ 73	
	♣ KJ54	

Looking at the two top spades in dummy you decide you must to try to take out the remaining entry to dummy before his trump is removed, so lead a small club, but declarer, aware that he needs the ace of clubs, allows it to run around to his queen.

He draws the remaining trump and hops over to dummy with the ace of clubs to access the good spades, making 12.

However the double-dummy analysis says that declarer should be held to 11. What went wrong with the defence?

Go back to trick 8 where you were attempting to take out declarer's access to dummy.

You had the right idea but chose the wrong card.

What card will achieve the task?

	♠ KQ943		
	♥ 3		
	♦ A1042		
	♣ A106		
♠ 1072		♠ J86	
♥ Q864		♥ 97	
♦ 73		♦ KQJ65	
♣ KJ54		♣ 832	
13	♠ A5		
6	♥ AKJ1052		
7	♦ 98		
14	♣ Q97		
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N 3 3 5 5 4
			S 4 3 5 5 4
			E - - - - -
			W - - - - -

There is a coup named after American steam ship Merrimac, which was sunk during the Spanish–American War in 1898 in Santiago de Cuba in an attempt to bottle up the Spanish fleet.

The King of clubs would have been the coup de grâce taking out the only entry to the good spades prematurely.

Despite being presented with a club trick if he takes the King with the ace he cannot dispose of his remaining club as the spade will be trumped by West, holding declarer to 11.

* Hand swung 90° for convenience

About the Author:

Peter Bircher is a top bridge player, having represented South Africa on a number of occasions.



A BIT OF NONSENSE

Devised by **Deirdre Ingersent**

Start with a personal document and in four moves by adding one letter each time, you should arrive at a card game we all love!

(The record for doing this currently stands at just five seconds!)



“You wouldn’t have made it if you had played it right.”

— **GHG, June 5, 1948**

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SID'S QUIZ

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ QJ86		
♥ J5		
♦ A962		
♣ 1097		
♠ AK95		♠ 4
♥ Q8		♥ K73
♦ 104		♦ KQJ753
♣ AQ863		♣ KJ5
♠ 10732		
♥ A109642		
♦ 8		
♣ 42		

Ghodhbane of Tunisia tried a deceptive ♦10 at trick 2. If North is napping or the diamond ace is with South he would run for home.

But North was wide awake!

He dropped the ♥J at trick 1;

He shot up with the diamond ace at trick 2 and returned a heart.

Both of these actions were necessary to secure a 13 IMP swing!

North was our own Hennie Fick!
Well defended!

A BIT OF NONSENSE:

ID

RID

RIDE

BRIDE

BRIDGE

