

SABA NEWS DECEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS – DECEMBER 2009

Manager appointed:

The Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Deaton to the position of Club Manager for the next 2 years commencing January 1st, 2010. Gary held a middle management position at BAE Systems and has been involved with SABA for many years (he is a Bridge Grand Master). The Committee noted a large interest in the position coming from people with varied backgrounds and experience. The current Committee would like to thank David Anderson for his past club management work and would like him to retain some directing duties.

Parking:

The Committee is aware of the difficulty that members have been having recently in finding parking spots near to the Club. Apparently a nearby call centre has been established and Unley and Parkside are having trouble with City workers parking all day and commuting to work. We are looking at various options including car-pooling. If you are interested in giving car-pooling a try, give your address and day or days you play to the director who will give your details to others who have registered in your suburb. Members who have a disabled parking permit are reminded that this enables them to stay legally for twice the shown time in a restricted parking area.

Power Upgrade:

The Committee has budgeted \$18,000 to upgrade our incoming power supply so that we can avoid the trouble we had earlier this year with power outages. The upgrade will not avoid load shedding by the authorities. We are waiting for approval by ETSA before we can go ahead.

State Open Team success:

In September we said “We think that Judy Hocking is the first woman to be a member of this State’s winning Open team although there have been women members of teams that were runners-up”. Fortunately we used the word “think” because David Lusk has informed us that in 1956 Margaret Lusk (now Choate) was in the first ever SA Team to win an Interstate. He goes on to say that Norah Martin was named in the winning 1960 ANC SA Team but did not play one board for the entire event.

Quiz Night:

Our annual Quiz Night took place on Saturday, October 31st and raised almost \$1200. Thanks go to the Quiz Master Attilio De Luca, the Fund Raising Committee, members who donated prizes, La Tombola Restaurant for its prize and of course the members and their guests who attended. We hope you can make it next year to this fun (non bridge) event.

Codes of Conduct:

A sub-committee has been set up to review the Code of Conduct for Directors and to establish a Code of Conduct for Players. The sub-committee is Peter Chan (Convenor), Angy Henn and Phil Sellars.

Soft drinks:

The price of cans of soft drinks has been increased to \$2 which is still cheaper than you can pay at a deli, service station, etc. This type of price rise where members can choose not to purchase is preferable to increasing charges that would impact on all members. Don’t forget to pay for your drinks at the Director’s desk.

Bridge Week:

Bridge Week will be held from Monday January 4th to Friday 8th. This is a concentrated week of bridge events for beginners, intermediate and established players. For more details, visit our web site or talk to any of our teaching staff.

Graham Terry



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BRIDGE to ANOTHER WORLD by Nana Ollerenshaw

Do you know a game where you say one thing and mean another? Where every move is controlled by the rules? Where divorce and broken friendships find true grounds? Where some are vulnerable some of the time? Where someone is called a dummy? Where you dare your opponent to succeed? Where retrospective analysis would beat a summit convention of nations?

Of course it's bridge.

Contract bridge, refined by Harold Vanderbilt on a Caribbean cruise, has been played worldwide since 1925. With the scope of human ingenuity, it is still evolving. Many construct their lives around it. Their other life, including non-playing spouse or partner, recedes into obscurity.

For the uninitiated, bridge is a game of bidding between partners to make an agreed number of tricks. Letting your partner know what you have or don't have in veiled bridge-speak is a sanctified form of communication. A bid and made contract is rewarded by points and bonuses. Even the defenders with disappointing cards can become absorbed in felling the enemy by hoarding their ace, king or cache of trumps for the kill. No one is bored. Boredom is not in the bridge vocabulary.

The game relies on cognition, memory, calculation, foresight, anticipation, consequence, acuity and educated guesswork. No wonder bridge is better than a prescription for old people.

As you improve, you slowly climb the hierarchical ladder and leave beginners behind.

Bridge can be played at all levels and still satisfy, provided people at similar levels line up at similar tables. For three hours you think of nothing else (unless you have a boyfriend). It is sociable for serious and casual player alike. In clubs you meet like-minded people. The hyperactive are forced to be still and think. The sedentary claim justification for their lifestyle.

When bridge becomes too serious (and protocol insists a designated player line up pencils in a designated direction) it is time for whimsy. Fantasy goes well with bridge and its compass points. North, South, East and West define this world inside a world.. While "the King is in his counting house counting out his money" and "the Queen is in her parlour eating bread and honey", I move their royal faces around in an Alice-in-Wonderland mood.

Bridge brings out the personalities in us: the dreamer, cowboy, entrepreneur, gambler, tycoon, competitor, hesitater, stirrer. Bridge is a world stage.

Let the play begin.

Reprinted from the Soapbox column in a recent edition of the Australian newspaper.

COMING EVENTS

- **AGM Sunday Dec. 6th at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and walkin pairs.**
- **Lyndoch Lavender Farm Pairs - Thursday nights in January.**
- **President's Pairs - Monday nights in January**
- **Open Trials Final - Thursday nights from February 4th - for the top 14 pairs from the 2009 State Events.**
- **Open Trials Consolation - Thursday nights from February 4th.**
- **Kath George Pairs - alternate Wednesdays from February 10th.**
- **State Daytime Teams championship - formerly the Mixed Teams - alternate Wednesdays from February 3rd**

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FRIDAY NIGHT FOLLIES

Last Friday night a certain former club auditor was helping himself to provisions to get through the rest of the evening, so I got to bid the West hand on the following deal.

Dlr North ♠AK76
N-S vul ♥10987
 ♦64
 ♣Q53

♠Q854
♥Q4
♦A7
♣KJ872



♠J103
♥KJ63
♦QJ952
♣A

♠92
♥A52
♦K1083
♣10964

We got to 3NT, the absent player returned then left for a cup of coffee, leaving me to be the declarer.

The opening lead of the ♥10 didn't help, South ducking so that I won the trick with my Queen.

I led the ♦Ace, then a small diamond to dummy's Queen, which held. Both defendants, very honest people, had played high low, so there didn't seem to be much of a future there.

It now seemed appropriate to get what tricks I could out of the hand, so I called for the ♠Jack, low, low, taken by North's King, who quickly returned a club, taken by the bare Ace.

Dummy's ♠10 was ducked, and the third spade lead was taken by North's Ace, who returned a heart to dummy's King and South's Ace.

South then returned the ♣10, my Jack, North's Queen, and I was feeling quite ill. North however fell from grace by returning a club, finessing her partner's 9, so instead of going some number off the contract made.

I was just settling back in my chair when a player from the next table came to me with a request – his wife, who had recently suffered a broken leg, needed to rest, so would I mind filling in.

So, I sat down against the Boylen's and then realised, I was about to play the same hand again, this time as a defender.

They duly got to 3NT from the other side and I found the honest lead of a small club, low from dummy, partner's Queen, and declarer's bare Ace.

Still, this didn't damage us unduly, since declarer decided that the diamond suit had to behave for him, it didn't, so he went two down.

Dlr West ♠108
Nil vul ♥J86
 ♦A9532
 ♣KJ5

Betty Anne
♠-
♥A10743
♦QJ874
♣A32



Roland
♠KJ52
♥K952
♦106
♣Q87

me
♠AQ97643
♥Q
♦K
♣10964

The last board of the set was also somewhat of an embarrassment, since I knew that South had made 3♠ doubled at the previous table.

West opened 1♥, 2♥ by East, 3♠ by me, 4♥ by West, all pass, contract.

Partner led the ♠10, dummy's Jack, my Queen, ruffed by declarer. Betty-Anne took her ♥Ace, saw my Queen fall, and continued with a low diamond to dummy's 10 and my bare King.

I returned a club to partner's King, and he continued with a club, won in dummy with the Queen. Next a diamond from dummy, spade from me, Queen from declarer, and Ace from partner.

A spade came back, ruffed by declarer, and she continued with the ♦Jack, discarding a losing spade from dummy, then the ♦8, covered, ruffed.

The end position reached was:

Dlr West ♠-
 Nil vul ♥J8
 ♦5
 ♣J

Betty Anne

♠-
 ♥43
 ♦7
 ♣A



me
 ♠A9
 ♥-
 ♦-
 ♠98

Roland

♠K
 ♥K9
 ♦-
 ♣7

Declarer came back to hand with the ♣Ace, cashed the ♦7, discarding dummy's losing spade, and took the trump finesse for her contract. A top board for the Boylen's, and well played Betty-Anne.

SIGNALS

At Bridge we spend a lot of time learning our bidding conventions but, sad to say, hardly any time on our defensive signals. Too many pairs don't play signals and, as a consequence, leave themselves open to insinuations that their defence is based on ulterior methods.

Defensive signals have been around since the days of whist, and can be as simple or as complicated as you wish. For the less experienced player it should be compulsory that they play some form of attitude signals, so they can encourage or discourage partner's lead, or ask for or deny a specific suit when discarding. This is usually done by playing a high card to encourage, or a low card to discourage.

Note: If you want to keep all your high cards when discarding, you can sometimes give partner the message by instead discouraging in the alternative suit.

Other common forms of signalling are as follows:

- High card for an even number, low card for an odd number. This signal is usually given when following to declarer's lead, and helps partner to determine declarer's actual distribution, and when to hold up in a No Trump contract.
- When returning a card that partner is going to ruff, a high card indicates a high outside entry, while a low card indicates that a lower suit lead is preferred.

- When making your first discard, a low even card calls for a low suit lead, a high even card indicates the higher other suit, while an odd card asks for the suit being discarded.

NUMBER SEVEN RULES, OK

Dlr West ♠7532
 East-West vul ♥Q5
 ♦AJ5
 ♣7542

♠104
 ♥J
 ♦K109872
 ♣KJ63



♠AKQ6
 ♥K987
 ♦63
 ♣A109

♠J98
 ♥A106432
 ♦Q4
 ♣Q8

Thursday night, East is declarer in 3NT after West's unorthodox 3♦ opening at the vulnerability.

I open led the ♥4 to dummy's Jack, partner's Queen, and declarer's King.

Declarer didn't seem too troubled by my lead, as he played his ♣Ace, followed by the ♣10, covered by my Queen, and dummy's King..

He came back to hand with the ♠Ace, then played the ♣9, on which I discarded a small heart. He couldn't overtake, since partner's ♣7 would then beat dummy's 6.

Declarer wasn't looking so happy now, as he led a diamond to dummy's King and partner's Ace.

Partner returned his ♥5, declarer's 9 and my 10. Knowing that declarer must have started with the K987 of hearts (from partner's lead of the 5) I took my ♦Queen, then exited with the the ♠Jack, covering dummy's bare 10. Next the ♥8 from declarer, my 10, exiting with the ♠8.

Declarer won his ♠Q, took his ♥7, then had to concede the last last trick to partner's ♠7 - his contract had been defeated by partner's holding of 7xxx in each of the black suits.

BRIDGE LESSONS

The next course of five lessons for beginners commence on February 1st at 10.30 or Tuesday February 2nd at 7.30.

Bridge Week: The course runs each day from 4th - 8th January 2010 from 10.30 to 2:00 p.m.

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THE JOYS of OUTWITTING an OPPONENT
 by ZIA MAHMOOD

By far the most enjoyable part of [bridge](#) is outwitting an opponent by some imaginative coup. Of course, these don't always work. Take today's deal from rubber bridge. Most of you will be familiar with the correct technical play in this trump suit:

North
 ♠ 10984



South
 ♠ AK762

You cash the A, and West drops the J. Now it is right to cross to dummy and run the 10, playing West for an original holding of singleton J rather than QJ doubleton, because he might have played the Q from that. In fact, the second-round finesse will work about twice as often as playing for the drop.

But suppose you cash the Ace and it is East rather than West who plays the Jack? Game all, dealer South.

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| ♠ 10984 | | ♠ J |
| ♥ A4 | | ♥ 1065 |
| ♦ AK | | ♦ 98542 |
| ♣ KQJ76 | | ♣ A832 |
| ♠ Q53 | | |
| ♥ J9873 | □ | |
| ♦ 1073 | | |
| ♣ 54 | | |
| ♠ AK762 | | |
| ♥ KQ2 | | |
| ♦ QJ6 | | |
| ♣ 109 | | |

South opened a strong no trump, North bid two clubs (Stayman), South bid two spades and North, who was known for a sporting rather than a scientific approach to the game, bid six spades. West led a heart, and declarer contemplated the potential loss of a trick in each black suit. He won the opening lead with dummy's A and he led a spade to East's J and his own A. What would you do next?

Of course, the only legitimate chance for the contract is to cash the other high spade, hoping for an original 2-2 division of the suit. But South knew that such a distribution was a two-to-one underdog once East had played the J. And he also knew what West did not – that he actually held a five-card spade suit, rather than the four-card suit his response to Stayman had promised. So at the third trick, he calmly led a low spade from his hand. Pity poor West, who imagined declarer with this hand:

- ♠ A762
- ♥ KQ2
- ♦ QJ6
- ♣ A109

If South really did have that, it would be fatal for West to play the queen of spades – his partner would overtake with the king, having begun with KJ doubleton. Unable to imagine that South would deliberately sacrifice his genuine chance for the contract in favour of a psychological swindle, West played low. South drew trumps, conceded a club and made his contract.

Yet another of Zia's excellent articles in the Guardian, which can be viewed online at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/bridge>

RECENT MAJOR PLACE-GETTERS

PAX LUSK BUTLER PAIRS

- 1 David Anderson & George Smolanko
- 2 Susan Emerson & Yadi Parrott
- 3 Paul Hudson & John Zollo

2009 OPEN TRIALS QUALIFYING

- 1 Mike Doecke & David Parrott
- 2 David Anderson & George Smolanko
- 3 Joachim Haffer & Zolly Nagy

2009 LIZ WAUGH PAIRS

- 1 Roger Januszke & John Zollo
- 2 Ann Clarke & Paul Hudson
- 3 Bob Clarke & Rosemary Grund

2009 PERCY WATTS PAIRS

- 1 Roger Januszke & John Zollo
- 2 Peter Colmer & Rosemary Grund
- 3 Bob Clarke & Alison Fallon

THURSDAY AM RUNDLE PAIRS

- 1 Val Mattsson & Kayoko Miki
- 2 Sandra Clift & Val Hill
- 3 Patricia Bland & Barry Specht

FRIDAY AM SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Fulvia Howard & Margaret Stevens
- 2 Patricia Grant & Ann Saunders
- 3 Merle Fisher & Lois Tippins

FRIDAY NIGHT SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Gary Deaton & Andrew Eddie
- 2 Attilio De Luca & John Zollo
- 3 Jackie Franco & John Smith

MONDAY AM SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Wendy Andrews & Jim May
- 2 Denise Buttrose & Brian Poole
- 3 Jean Boomer & Sue Robinson

2009 MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 Bob & Leonie Clarke
- 2 Attilio De Luca & Susan Emerson
- 3 Alison & Gordon Fallon

TUESDAY AM SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Judy Bakker & Winfried Einthal
- 2 Andre & Marjorie Samarcq
- 3 Brenda Bradley & Ann Currie

TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Rosemary Grund & Adrienne Kelly
- 2 Sandy Barnes & Margaret Lucas
- 3 Maurice Elmendorp & Michael Ward

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Eve Shillito & Lindsay Wills
- 2 John & Judy Zollo
- 3 Gopal Hingorani & Angela Norris

2009 STATE TEAMS PHASE 2

- 1 David Anderson - George Smolanko - Zolly Nagy - David Middleton
- 2 Greg Sargent - Chris Lorimer - Andy Babiszewski - Peter Popp - Ken Hocking

3 Peter Chan - John Hewitt - Joel Gue - Trevor Tao - Phil Gue

GRAND NATIONAL RESTRICTED PAIRS

- 1 Peter Teubner & Neil Welch
- 2 Mark Fairlamb & Tim O'Loughlin
- 3 Marise Allen & Mary Hiscox

MONDAY AM OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 Denise Buttrose & Brian Poole
- 2 Wendy Andrews & Jim May
- 3 Delsi Pozza & Beverley Sitters

GEORGE ROPER PAIRS

- 1 Attilio De Luca & John Zollo
- 2 Bob Clarke & David Parrott
- 3 Ann Cottrell & Warren Neill

JEAN MCEWIN PAIRS

- 1 Ferdinand Meerbach & Carmel Thompson
- 2 Judy Hone & Pam Morgan-King
- 3 Eve Shillito & Lindsay Wills

HAFER ROOFING PAIRS

- 1 Rosemary Grund & Adrienne Kelly
- 2 Jackie Franco & John Smith
- 3 James & Michael Kitchener

PATRON'S CUP

- 1 Cathy & David Davies
- 2 Garry Brown & Nikki Mortier
- 3 John Roberts & K Yates

WEDNESDAY EVENING OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 John & Judy Zollo
- 2 Arnold Fraser & Mike Moore
- 3 Ann Cottrell & Walter Kuiper

THURSDAY AM OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 Jim Rea & Graham Terry
- 2 Brian Poole & Delsi Pozza
- 3 Lorrie Day & Rama Patel

FRIDAY AM OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 Margaret Choate & Warren Neill
- 2 Wendy Andrews & Judith Roberts
- 3 Margaret Fenton & Denise Webber

PADDY HAYDON PAIRS

- 1 Attilio De Luca & Susan Emerson
- 2 Gary Deaton & Andrew Eddie
- 3 Sonia Bromley & Patricia Pak Poy

2009 STATE PAIRS QUALIFYING

- 1 Russel Harms & Jeff Travis
- 2 Paul Hudson & John Zollo
- 3 Attilio De Luca & David Lusk

GUSTI GILBERT PAIRS

- 1 Barbara Marrett & Prudie Wagner
- 2 Alex Bremner & Ivan Hill
- 3 Paul Hudson & John Zollo

JESSICA MUDD PAIRS

- 1 Bob Clarke & Peter Colmer
- 2 David Hester & John Roughan
- 3 Alex Bremner & Ivan Hill

Teacher's Tips : REVERSE REBIDS and the BARRIER PRINCIPLE

You are looking at:

♠4
♥J1097
♦AKJ76
♣K103

You open 1♦ and decide your rebid when partner bids 1♠. 1NT promises a balanced hand so you opt for 2♥, showing your second suit. Good idea? You have just produced a reverse and your side is in trouble if your partner has a minimum hand of 6 or 7 points and no fit.

You have ignored the barrier principle which is that, on a minimum hand opposite a response, you should never go beyond two of your primary suit unless raising partner. In most natural bidding systems minimum is about 12-15.

Let's give you a different hand:

♠4
♥AK109
♦AQJ76
♣K103

The auction is identical: 1♦: 1♠, this time 2♥ is a good rebid because you have a hand which is better than minimum and what is more, with more cards in the lower ranked suit, you can show your strength and shape with this sequence.

Part of the trouble is that players show second suits all the time. There is no extra strength shown when you have opened your higher ranked suit and rebid a lower one at the two level. Consider this hand:

♠AKJ76
♥4
♦AJ75
♣J65

You open 1♠ and partner bids 1NT. Bidding 2♦ here makes all the sense in the world because you can offer a second suit without losing the option to play in 2♠. In other words, you have not broken the barrier.

Now consider the same hand with partner instead responding 2♥, showing 5+ hearts and 10+ points. It may be tempting to bid 3♦ at your next turn but the auction may well have been thrown out of control as a result. The safest rebid over 2♥ is 2♠, even if you play 5 card majors. The priority here is to confirm a minimum hand. Rebidding

second suits in this way is called a high reverse and promises better than minimum whereas jump shift rebids promise maximum hands.

Without opposition bidding, interpret the following auctions. Can you identify when the opener is showing extra strength?

- 1) 1♣: 1♠ ...2♦
- 2) 1♦: 1♥ .1♠
- 3) 1♥: 2♦ .3♣
- 4) 1♥: 1♠ ...2♣
- 5) 1♥: 1♠ 3♣
- 6) 1♥: 1NT 2♥

In 1), opener has pushed past 2♣, breaking the barrier. Therefore expect opener to be typically 5-4 in the suits bid, with longer clubs and a better than minimum hand.

Example 2), with the auction staying at the one level, sees opener make a wide-ranging 1♠ rebid. In standard style this may still be a 4-4 but Acol players would be denying a balanced hand. In either system, 1♠ promises nothing more than a minimum hand although the possibility of extras is not to be ignored. Many pairs play 1-level suit rebids as a one round force.

In 3), opener has promised an unbalanced hand with extra strength.

Number 4) is an example of a simple auction showing 5 hearts and 4 clubs but may be 6-4, 6-5 or 5-5. No extra strength should be expected here as the opener has not broken the barrier. Opener may have a little extra but has not promised it at this stage.

Number 5) is an example of a jump shift rebid. Unless your partnership has a conventional interpretation, I would expect opener to have at least 5-4 in hearts and clubs and a game-force hand (good 18-20).

In 6) opener has confirmed a minimum opening hand with good hearts. The rebid does not deny a 4 card spade suit but strongly suggests the absence of a four card minor. Most often opener will show a second suit below the barrier, particularly in the face of a 1NT response.

David Lusk



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Cynthia Fowler	*REGIONAL
Jinny Fuss	STATE
Tony Hind	NATIONAL
Gopal Hingorani	*STATE
Libby Lock	STATE
Bill Lockwood	LIFE
Sandra Morrison	NATIONAL
Merilyn Paris	*STATE
Natalie Rutherford	STATE
Andre Samarcq	*STATE
Carolyn Scholefield	**LOCAL
Eve Shillito	GOLD LIFE
George Smolanko	GOLD GRAND
Barry Specht	**LOCAL
Trevor Tao	LOCAL
Paul Walker	SILVER LIFE
Neil Welch	NATIONAL
Lindon Wing	**LOCAL

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

30/09/2009

Carolyn Andrew	*LOCAL
Judy Bakker	*REGIONAL
John Blundell	**LOCAL
Justin Brown	*STATE
Jill Byrne	STATE
Anne Casaretto	*LOCAL
Bronny Colmer	*LOCAL
Robyn Duncan	LOCAL
Sylvia Fender	CLUB
Pauline Ferris	*LOCAL
Merle Fisher	*REGIONAL
Brian Forsythe	LOCAL
Jan Geddes	STATE
Patricia Grant	*REGIONAL
Fay Hanna	CLUB
Geoffrey Hannaford	LOCAL
Pauline Hocking	GRADUATE
Jan Holmes	STATE
Jill Le Vieux	*LOCAL
Sandy Leach	SILVER LIFE
Margaret Mackay	**LOCAL
Lorraine Mason	LOCAL
Val Mattsson	SILVER LIFE
Ferdy Meerbach	LIFE
Brian O'Connor	**LOCAL
Sue Ormsby	STATE
Maja Reed	CLUB
Kym Tohill	LOCAL
Pam Uppill	*LOCAL
Athena Zaknic	*LOCAL

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

The following players have all recently joined, or re-joined, the Association

Reg Bennett, Penny Bowen
Sandy & Terry Buick,
Brian Croft, Gaddi Daniel,
Hilary de Bruin, Noel Farnan,
Grant Gotley, Maggi Hamilton-Clark,
Penelope Gray, Sue Hapek,
Rosie Johnston, John Kikkert,
Peter Nimon, Rebecca Poon,
Karl Reeves, Liz Robertson,
Peter Sandercock, Edward Young
Please make them welcome.

WOMEN'S & SENIORS TRIALS QUALIFYING

**Saturday February 13th,
SABA clubrooms.**

**To be run as a Swiss Butler pairs event.
NOTE: Unless you have sufficient Open
Playoff points, or played in the State
team in 2009, playing in this event is the
only way that you can qualify for either
of these Finals.**

**The top placegetters will get half price
entry to the Women's or Seniors Trials
Final.**

Times 9:30 to 12:30, & 1:15 to 5:15.

Entry fee \$40 per pair.

**Entries close February 11th and are
restricted to an even number of pairs.**

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BRIDGE HUMOUR by Eddie Kantar

Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster. One gets used to abuse. It's the waiting that is so trying.

The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits.

I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections. (George Kaufman)

Learn from the mistake of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.
-Alfred Sheinwold.

Your play was much better tonight and so were your excuses.

We play forcing hesitations.

If I did everything right, I wouldn't be playing with you.

Hear about the guy who led the 8 from a 98 doubleton because his teacher told him "eight ever, nine never?"

A lady is playing in her first duplicate hears an opponent say: "Alert". The lady says: "I am alert".

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "Relations of yours"? "Yes" she says, "In-laws".

Guy going out with this girl for some time and they play bridge regularly, but not much is happening romantically. Finally, she puts him in this God-awful slam and says: "If you make this contract, I'll sleep with you." He tries his hardest, but trumps don't break and a couple of finesses don't work and he winds up going down three! She says: "That's close enough".

Student in class has xxx facing AQJ in dummy. She leads low and puts in the jack which holds. She plays the ace next. Teacher asks why she didn't take the finesse again? She says: "You told us that only one of two finesses work."

P. Hal Sims a great expert of yesteryear had the reputation of never misguessing a queen in a two-way finesse position. He finds himself playing against two ladies missing a queen and finally announces that neither one of them has it. Sure enough the queen was on the floor.

I am called over to a table by one of my students who tells me she only has 12 cards. Sure enough she is right. I look around and find the ♠A on the floor and give it to her. She was previously void in spades. She says to me: "Now you've gone and ruined my entire hand."

Alvin Roth a very ethical player is defending 7NT, vulnerable, in a money rubber bridge game where the declarer reduces to a three card ending. Dummy has the Axx of spades and declarer the KJ10. The lead is in declarer's hand and he leads the SJ. Second hand has xxx and Roth Qxx. Second hand goes into an act trying to make declarer think he has the queen and finally plays low. Declarer, taken in by the hesitation, also plays low. Roth, holding the queen, also plays low allowing the jack to take the trick and the declarer to make 7NT. When Roth's partner asks him why he didn't take the SQ, Roth says: "Because I thought you had it!"

**GRADED SWISS PAIRS
CONGRESS**

**Sunday February 21st,
SABA clubrooms.**

**To be run as a Swiss matchpoint pairs
event, with 7 board matches.**

**Red masterpoints will be awarded for
each match won.**

**A Swiss draw will be used for each
round after the first, so from round two
onwards pairs will be playing against
opponents with a similar aggregate to
themselves.**

**Times 9:30 to 12:30, & 1:15 to 5:15.
Entry fee \$40 per pair, attendance both
sessions compulsory.**

Entries close February 18th.

Howard Shenken never made a hand in a Truscott column. They were not on such good terms. Ditto with Stayman and Goren. In the Goren columns, a 2C response to 1NT was never referred to as Stayman. It was always 'the two club convention'.

David Bruce, Life Master #1, was on lead against a grand slam in a suit contract holding two aces and he knew the dummy had to be void in one of those suits. The dummy was Ozzie Jacoby, who always left the table the moment a card was led. David Bruce decided to lead his gum wrapper. When Jacoby saw something hit the table he put this dummy down and David Bruce saw which ace would cash.

Hugh Ross is playing 7NT and the fellow to his right is dying to lead an ace. Hugh says to him: "I have some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that I know you have an ace to lead, the bad news is that your partner is on lead." Partner leads the wrong suit and Hugh makes the contract.

Billy Eisenberg tells me after we go over our system: "Our convention basket is overflowing, we are leaking conventions."

Another thing to tell your partner after dummy comes down weaker than expected: "Where is the hand you held during the bidding?"

In a novice game declarer calls director over to the table and tells him he is playing a slam contract and he has won the opening lead and played the ace and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and ruffed a diamond. The director, impressed, asks him why he has been called over. The declarer tells him that the contract is 6NT.

Lady phones me and asks me if I can teach her mother and her friends in November. I tell her I can't until January. She says: "Never mind, they won't last that long."

In a novice game the wife leads a low club and her husband alerts. They ask about the alert. He says "She is leading a singleton." "How do you know", one opponent asks. "Because she led it with her left hand. If it were from a doubleton, she would have led it with her right hand."

Patrick Jourdain, a famous bridge player-teacher from Wales is called over to a table at one of his classes where a hand has just passed out, but 4th hand had 17 high card points. "So why did you pass?" asks Patrick. "Because you told us after three passes the bidding is over, so I had to."

This lady, Charlotte, plays very slowly. She is asked to speed it up a bit. She says: "I'm sorry, but I can't think and play bridge at the same time."

When your partner is playing even worse than usual you might say: "You know, you may not be the worst player in the world, but if that person should die...."

Bobby Wolff is playing with a client who has just driven a long distance to play in this tournament with Bobby. On the first hand Bobby cashes the AK of a suit, his partner playing high-low and when he leads the third round of the suit she doesn't trump. When Bobby asks her why she didn't trump, she says: "Bobby, I was just too tired to trump."

The above selection has been taken from Eddie Kantar's website. To see more, go to

<http://www.kantarbridge.com/>



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SPRING HAS SPRUNG....by RAY DOHNT.

My favourite genre of story is Science Fiction. Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" started it all for me in my early teens. A future world with many parallels. A mystery to behold. Much like my bridge at different times of the year. It ebbs and flows with the seasons.

Autumn was awful and atrocious. Tricks were scattered like leaves in the wind. Contracts died like the yellowing of forest trees. Winter was woeful. Cold, bleak, wet and miserable. And the weather was not much better either. I was determined that spring would change all that. A new beginning. My turn to blossom, to bloom, to spring eternal, to.....ah, you get the general idea! The first Monday night competition was a four week pairs event. We always sit N-S. My partner, young Jean Suggitt, is a "Feng Shui" expert, believing her aura is enhanced in the northern position. Plus it is close to the door for a quick nicotine fix. Each week, we constantly met one particular partnership – Anderson & Smolanko. South Australia's equivalent to the infamous Italian Blue Team. What was our luck? Akin to PeeWee Herman fighting Muhammad Ali. Like the Lavender ladies playing Venus & Serena Williams. Like....ah, you get the idea again! Each week, they filled their Xmas stockings with top scores, maximum percentage and most of our self esteem. It left us speechless. A vowel movement if ever I had one. Messy business. Still, it finally finished. Ended. Ceased.

Wait a minute. Next Thursday's draw showed us playing the twins of Satan once again. What was our luck once more? Pitched in battle with Ivan the Terrible & Ghengis Khan. Like trying to find Son of Sam & Jack the Ripper. Like....ah, you know, what I said before !! Still, they are human (I think). They surely bleed. They can be beaten. Death to the infidels.

The first four boards sit clearly in my mind. It was like the perfect operation. Quick incision. Rip out the cancer. Cease the bleeding. Stitch up the patient. Under anaesthetic, they won't know what hit them.

Board One: After an aggressive and competitive auction, we ended in four spades. Doubled by Anderson, with the smile of an assassin. Of course, I played it flawlessly. Bought home the fragile game. Score, +790 to the good guys.

Board Two: After a complicated, extended and laborious auction, Smolanko found himself in 3NT. We found a unique lead, and perfect defence took it down two tricks. Plus 200 to the N-S battlers.

Board Three: With the auction belonging to N-S, we settled in 5-diamonds over the failing 3NT game. Jean bought home the preferable game, with her eyes wide shut. Plus 600 to the needy and the greedy. This was indeed sweet. Perfect revenge.

Board four: On a very light opening, a pushy auction and a wing and a prayer, we bid to a shaky six spade slam. The wrong choice of lead by Anderson presented me with the contract. Just as I was about to claim, the alarm went off! Yes, the alarm! I snapped out of my deep sleep. Drenched in sweat. Ready to meet a Thursday morning. It had all been a dream. Nightmare, more likely. My perfect parallel world had come to a crashing halt. The real world was to hit me later that evening.

Strangely, all those scores ended up being correct. One exception. They all belonged to the enemy. To E-W. To Ying and Yang. With my luck, Anderson probably had the same dream. His came true. Mine, was simply a figment of a poor imagination.

Spring had indeed sprung. It was short, sharp and severe. I was running out of the three bridge essentials. Clean underwear, as opposition can give both vowel & bowel movements. Bandages, to dress the cuts and abrasions inflicted upon me. And, finally, a strong mouthwash, to rid the taste of defeat and humiliation.

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Thankfully, spring has finished. Summer arrived with a vengeance with a record heat wave in early November. Surely my summer would sizzle. I just hope that I do not get barbequed, like last year. I am still trying to rid myself of the grill marks and the smell of burnt flesh. Why do we play this game? Oh, that's right, because it is considered to be fun. Then fun it shall be. Summer!! Bring it on.....

BOOK REVIEW – RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK AGAIN, by Ron Klinger

Ron Klinger tied for the 2009 Book of the Year Award, as presented by the International Bridge Press Association, for his most recent publication, Right Through the Pack Again.

Ron's book is based on the 1948 Bridge Classic Right Through the Pack, by Robert Darvas and Norman Hart, where each card told its own story.

Not being a major bridge book reader myself I gave the review copy to the most frequent user of our Club Library. He enjoyed the hands, once he got over his problem with the cards talking to him!

A sample article:

The Little Trump - The Story of the ♣3

♠AKQ ♥107532 ♦4 ♣J942	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠J10942 ♥KJ8 ♦K876 ♣5
♠8753 ♥AQ6 ♦Q53 ♣AQ3		
	♠6 ♥94 ♦AJ1092 ♣K10876	

As South had length in both minors, North figured South would be short in hearts so pushed on to 5♣ and the Old Master doubled. Had he started with a top heart, that would have led to an easy two down, but even the Old Master is not as omniscient as Deep finesse. The ♣A would also have worked well, since a heart switch would have been obvious at trick two, but the Old Master opted for a passive spade lead.

Declarer quickly played the top spades and ditched his heart losers. He then embarked on a crossruff: ♦A, diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff, heart ruff to reach this position:

	♠- ♥1075 ♦- ♣J9	
♠8 ♥A ♦- ♣AQ3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠J10 ♥K ♦K ♣5
	♠- ♥- ♦J10 ♣K108	

When declarer played the ♦J the Old master discarded the ♥A – that was essential – and dummy ruffed. Dummy's next heart was ruffed with the ♣8, overruffed, and we were down to three cards.

	♠- ♥107 ♦- ♣J	
♠8 ♥- ♦- ♣A3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠J10 ♥- ♦- ♣5
	♠- ♥- ♦J10 ♣K10	

The Old Master cashed the ♣A and played the ♠8. South ruffed and I won trick 13, said the ♣3. I was the top trump after just one round of trumps had been played.

Copies of this book can be ordered from Ron at Modern Bridge, (02) 9958 5589, or else through David Lusk.

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q What happens to the score when you have a sit-out, or miss a board?

A.Session scores are calculated on the boards you actually play. If, therefore, there are 30 boards in the movement but you only play 27 of them, your score is the sum of your matchpoints for those 27 boards, divided by the maximum that you could have achieved on those boards.

Q. How are matchpoints calculated?

A. Matchpointing is quite a simple process of awarding ranking points. If, as an example, there are seven scores on a scoresheet, then the scores are ranked, best getting six, worst 0, others a score that reflects its placing, as per the following example:

Contract	N-S	E-W	N-S pts	E-W pts
4SN		100	1	5
4SN	650		5	0
4SN	620		3.5	1.5
4SN	620		3.5	1.5
4SXN	790		6	4
2SN	170		2	3
6SN		200	0	6

East-West get the complement of the North-South matchpoints, in the above example 6 less the matchpoints awarded to N-S.

When a score is repeated the points are shared, as in the above example where there are two scores of 620. The matchpoints awarded = $(4+3)/2$ i.e. 3.5 each.

Q. What is the score when a hand is passed in?

A.When a hand is passed in,(as distinct from not played), a score of zero is awarded, and this is then ranked with the other scores on the board. If the fifth score in the above table was amended to passed in the matchpoints would then be:

Contract	N-S	E-W	N-S pts	E-W pts
4SN		100	1	5
4SN	650		6	0
4SN	620		4.5	1.5
4SN	620		4.5	1.5
Passed In	0		2	4
2SN	170		3	3
6SN		200	0	6

It is therefore important that the travelling score-sheet entry for a passed in hand read "passed in", rather than "not played", a very different circumstance.

Q Why doesn't anybody ever get less than 40%?

A. Obviously they do, indeed the true scores are used to determine competition aggregates. Scores of less than 40% are shown as 40% to hide the unfortunate plight of the players concerned. I have seen scores as low as 20%, however the players' names must remain a secret between me and my computer.

Q What happens to your score if you miss a session of a pairs event, or have a substitute?

A If you miss a session, but have played a sufficient number of sessions to be eligible for a final placing, you will be given 50%, or 90% of your average.

If you instead have a substitute then the most that you can score, for competition aggregate purposes, is the entrant pair's average. The minimum you can get is 90% of the entrant pair's average, or 50%, whichever is the lower.

Q. How many sessions do I need to play to be eligible for a final placing?

A. If the event isn't eclectic (where you drop your worst score) then for a three session event the entrant pair needs to play two times,. for a four session event three times, and for a five session event the entrant pair must have played three times, and been represented on at least one other occasion.

If the event is eclectic, then the requirements are those for one less session, i.e. four session event twice, and five session event three times.