

August/September 2021

Volume 1, Issue 2



THE BRIDGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many articles have been written on cheating in bridge by far more talented and eloquent authors than me. But I understand very well, as I'm sure we all do, how it spoils the fun for the rest of us and the damage it is doing to the game.

I have no idea what possesses people to cheat at bridge but I do have some ideas as to how we should go about addressing this problem in South Africa. Up until now we have relied on a small team of individuals who make up our Disciplinary committee to investigate and determine whether players are using unfair methods when playing online. But this is an onerous task with which to burden them and so we have created an Ethics committee made up of some of our leading local players whose sole purpose in life is to screen complaints and to determine whether to dismiss the case or prosecute the players in question.

So what is the procedure you must follow should you be concerned that a pair is colluding? Copy the hand(s) in question with a brief description of what transpired at the table and send them to your TD. He in turn, should he consider the evidence sufficient, will forward this to the proper authorities. You won't be asked to give evidence at a hearing as this responsibility lies exclusively in the hands of the Ethics committee. But let me make this clear – if online bridge has given rise to an increase in cheating, it has also given rise to an increase in false allegations and general rumour mongering. While you have a responsibility to report suspicious incidents to the authorities you do not have the right either in writing or verbally to accuse anyone of

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cheating. If you do so then you are in breach of our Code of Conduct rules and will find yourself, not the accused, in front of our Disciplinary committee.

On a related but happier note, here is a short anecdote on South African bridge history in the making. Back in 2018 our committee took the decision to hold one of our major national events, the Interprovincials, online long before this had gained the popularity it enjoys today where it is the only means we have of playing bridge. Participation in this event had been diminishing at an alarming rate because of the financial costs involved in entering teams and I suspect we were among the first NBOs worldwide to take this route. But more importantly, we took the decision at that time that although the teams could play remotely they would be monitored. This decision was taken not because we thought for one second that any of our teams would resort to cheating, but because we wanted to make the statement to all South African bridge players and to the rest of the world that we would do all in our power to preserve the principals of honesty and transparency in the game.

James Grant



LETTERS

“Bridge in the Yucatán”

It seems like a dream after nearly eleven and a half years since we have played competitive bridge. There are no bridge clubs in the Yucatán, where we bought a home, and hence it is on rare occasions that we both go to a tournament. Actually, I think it is three times! Arriving here we advertised for bridge playing pairs and received zero response. I initially played on a US site but their decorum was absolutely abhorrent so I gave up. We were lucky enough to find another pair about four years ago and had several social games. But one was from Argentina and one from here and both had too many other commitments overseas and in other parts of Mexico so that it was very infrequent to get together and Covid finally put a stop to it. We both joined the ACBL and during one of our few trips to the US, where we are permitted to play being members, we went by Florida, where we were entertained royally by Linda (Green) and Sos (who has sadly since passed away). It was a wonderful chance to catch up with a South African friend. She is now a much sought-after organizer and Director, even being invited to co-direct with Larry Cohen on his cruise bridge courses. Whilst in the States I took and passed the ACBL Director’s examination.

We have done a few tours to archaeological sites (all very interesting) but again Covid put a stop to those. The Mayan culture was destroyed either by the Spanish Conquistadors or over-farming or weather variability. No one has a single explanation.

They had a wonderful civilization and their structures are still being found in the Mexican jungle. These spanned the Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche (all local regions). What goes on in the North of the country is another story. We have travelled to Chiapas visiting the Sumadero Canyon, Tuxtla Guitierrez and San Cristobal de las casas. There we explored caves about a mile long, strange churches with pagan rites (Coca-Cola is offered to the gods and the floor is covered in straw) and a most beautiful waterfall with multiple stages, one being called the bridal veil (local name is El Chiffon).

The whole of our area has several levels of underground water rivers and as it is built on limestone, these create what are called cenotes (basically lakes of varying depth and magnitude).

We have visited many of these and been swimming in those subterranean, semi- subterranean and surface lakes. They are magnificent and some are joined by the underground rivers.

The largest that we have been to is Ik Kil (a Mayan name) (you can Google it to see its beauty) near Valladolid, a central town about 100 miles from here. There must be tens of smaller ones around Mérida where we live the best near a village called Acanceh (we call it “I can’t say”).

The weather is oppressive with year round high day temperatures never below 25°C and humidifies creating heat indices over 46°C on occasion.

So there you have it, no bridge but lots of interesting places to see until Covid hit.

Regards to all our old friends,

Peter and Glenda Jackson

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2021

This year we were obliged to hold our annual congress online which for me at least was akin to watching a football match on the telly as opposed to being there in the stadium. However for those of us who were never able to make it to the stadium in the past, this was a great experience! We once again had the good fortune of acquiring the services of Waleed El Menyawi who brought his own special magic to the event and made this a very pleasant and enjoyable tournament for the participants.

For those of you who may have missed it, here are the results

PAIRS FINAL

Championship

1st Paul Hackett and Judy Lawson

2nd Maureen Holroyd and Val Bloom

Congress

1st Nicola Bateman and Tas Nestoridis

2nd Aaron Seinker and Joyce Hessen

Plate

1st Jeff Sapire and Diana Balkin

2nd Ghita Sandler and Sharon Izerel

President

1st Lara Woznica and Adrian Mauerberger

2nd John Barlow and Linda Campbell

TEAMS FINAL

Championship

1st Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Sven-Ake Bjerregard, Rob Stephens

2nd Michael Alexander, Tim Cope, Eckhard Boehike, Kathryn Herz, Anton Der Kinderen

Congress

1st Noah Apteker, Bernard Donde, Neville Eber, Chris Bosenberg

2nd Jennifer Foaden, Renee Kenny, Kit Gilmour, Helen Kruger

Plate

1st Ian Holdsworth, Ian Glenn, Susan Botha, Lynn Cunningham

2nd Andre Van Niekerk, Rose Duff, Ester Goosen, Glynis Dornon

President

1st Shirley Kaminer, Phil King, Michele Alexander, Jocelyn Ashberg

2nd Lex Van Vught, Harold Wilensky, Aviva Wilensky, Sam Trocki, Joy Rothenberg, Ian Katz

And then more recently we held our Interprovincials, run as smoothly as always by our very own Rob Stephens:

INTERPROVINCIAL TEAMS

Medwin

1st Gauteng

Aras Apteker, Craig Gower, Neville Eber, Val Bloom

2nd Western Cape

Imtiaz Kaprey, Maureen Narunsky, Martin Grunder, Carol Grunder

Berkowitz

1st Gauteng

Norman Kennelly, May Kennelly, Allan Berman, Louise Berman

2nd Southern Cape

Karin Van Der Merwe, Marguerite Badenhorst, Paula Grobbelaar, Barbara May, Mike Wright, Viv lloyd

Our congratulations to them all!

James Grant

PUZZLES

CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Can you crack the code and solve the crossword? Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

22	10	5	15		14	4	25	24	24	15	17		
25		10		7		17		17		7		14	
4	25	7	16	10	16	25	24	15		6	9	24	
9		15		20		16		5		9		25	
7	26	24	14	13	15	11	11		4	3	Y	25	7
		10		24		15		16				23	Z
2	10	4	5	11	15		4	10	7	15	12	25	
10				3		9		14		7			
20	25	8	15		12	3	14	24	10	19	Q	26	15
26		10		18		14		25		26		8	
17	9	16		15	21	24	15	7	14	10	8	15	
15		15		15		15		24		17		7	
	4	9	12	1	25	17	15		22	15	14	24	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

SID'S QUIZ

Start your round with a SQUEEZE!

D 1		N RogerJW ♠ A ♥ AKQ86 ♦ Q105 ♣ A764	W N E S 2♦ P 2♥ P 2NT P 3♥ P 3♣ P 3NT P P P
W Greg_H ♠ KJ ♥ J9432 ♦ K984 ♣ J3		E Rottiefan ♠ 109654 ♥ 7 ♦ A632 ♣ Q92	
	S Duiker ♠ Q8732 ♥ 105 ♦ J7 ♣ K1085		3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

Hand 1 from the KZN Congress proved to be a real tester for bidders and dummy-players alike! Only 5 out of the huge field of players made 3NT. The table that interested me was

N-S = Roger Wilson and Brian Thomas (Durban)

E-W = Greg Hingle and Diana Rosslee (JHB)

Roger showed a 19-20 NT hand after the Multi 2♦ bid. Diana led the ♦ 2 since she knew dummy had 5 spades. Even looking at all 4

hands, it is hard to fathom how Roger made nine tricks without a defensive error.

Try it now at double-dummy?

The ♦ K won trick 1 and back came the ♦ 9 and Diana ducked declarer's ♦ 10. Roger knew that the diamonds were 4-4 from the lead of the deuce of diamonds.

Roger continued with the ♣ A and he then ducked a club to Greg's knave. The defenders cashed their 2 diamonds (book) and Diana switched smartly to the ♠ 10, won perforce by declarer. What is Roger hoping for? "If one defender has to look after the ♠ Q and if he also has the long hearts, he can be squeezed. And if the hearts were 3-3 all along, that would please me too!"

Sure enough, Greg got squeezed when Roger now played off his two club winners! He was forced to discard two hearts in the endgame (see diagram):

D 1		N RogerJW ♠ A ♥ AKQ86 ♦ Q105 ♣ A764	W N E S 2♦ P 2♥ P 2NT P 3♥ P 3♣ P 3NT P P P
W Greg_H ♠ KJ ♥ J9432 ♦ K984 ♣ J3	♣ 6 ♥ 2 ♠ 4 ♣ 8	E Rottiefan ♠ 109654 ♥ 7 ♦ A632 ♣ Q92	
	S Duiker ♠ Q8732 ♥ 105 ♦ J7 ♣ K1085		3NT N NS: 5 EW: 4

The ♥ 8 won the game-fulfilling trick! This equated to +8 IMPs. Very well played!

This start was necessary to elevate Roger/Brian to a great winning score of +80.52 IMPs – the best N-S in the field for Round 1!

About the Author

Sid Ismail runs tournaments on BBO every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, contact him on 082 411 9900 or visit www.elsid.co.za. SABF Masterpoints can be earned!

RANKING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all players who continue to climb steadily in the rankings!

Name	New Rank	Club
Vanessa Armstrong	Premier Life Master	KZNBC
Peta Balderson	Gold Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Louise Berman	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Allan Berman	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Sven-Ake Bjerregaard	Gold Life Master	Bridge Centre
Johan J F Bouwer	Premier Life Master	Highway
Lynn Brown	National Master	Western Cape
John Bryant	National Master	Western Cape
Petro Carson	Regional Master	Bloemfontein
Mohamed Iqbal Cassim	Regional Master	The Links Bridge Club
Janet Colebank	Life Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Trish Crosse	Gold Life Master	Rivonia Bridge Club
Rose Duff	Gold Life Master	Western Cape
Liz Duplessis	Life Master	KZNBC
Peta Feinstein	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Jennifer Foaden	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Janet Forgan	Master	Port Elizabeth
Jann Frames	Regional Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Sheila Francis	Premier Life Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Anneke Furniss	National Master	Two Hearts
Sue Geldenhuys	Regional Master	Western Cape
Dave Gibbon	Regional Master	Highway
Louise Gibbon	Regional Master	Highway
Ester Goosen	Gold Life Master	Port Elizabeth
Paula Grobbelaar	Regional Master	Plettenberg Bay Bridge Club
Laureen Harris	National Life Master	Western Cape
Joyce Hessen	National Life Master	Western Cape
Bev Hewitt	Gold Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Jon Howlett	Regional Master	Highway
Sharon Izerel	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Madeline Joffe	Life Master	Western Cape
Shirley Kaminer	Premier Life Master	Western Cape
Ian Katz	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Kathy Kay	Regional Master	Margate
Duncan Keet	Life Master	Western Cape
Mark Kenyon	National Master	Western Cape
Di Knowler	Gold Life Master	Highway
Riekie Louw	National Master	Hermanus Bridge Club
Ian Lowdon	National Master	Rivonia Bridge Club
Adrian Mauerberger	Regional Master	Western Cape
Barbara May	Regional Master	Plettenberg Bay Bridge Club

Mandy Meyerowitz	Regional Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Judith O'Hara	National Master	Port Elizabeth
Jimmie Potgieter	National Master	Western Cape
Alison Puggia	National Master	Port Elizabeth
Jill Rabie	Life Master	Hermanus Bridge Club
Vernon Rice	Gold Life Master	Garden Route
Brenda Rosenberg	Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Hilary Sacks	Life Master	Western Cape
Wilf Sperryn	Gold Life Master	Highway
Carol Stanton	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Lyn Staples	Regional Master	Western Cape
Zela Stern	Life Master	Western Cape
Heather Stevens	Regional Master	Benoni Northerns Bridge Club
Colette Stott	National Life Master	Western Cape
Gail Taylor	National Master	Margate
Joan Van Vught	National Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
David S Van Vuuren	Regional Master	Pretoria
Anne Visser	Life Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Koen Vreeneoor	Regional Master	Bridge @ Orchards
Anne-Marie Waterman	National Master	The Links Bridge Club
Anke Willemsen	National Master	Two Hearts

The complete list of promotions may be viewed on the [SABF website](#).



RECOGNISING ARIE RIDDERHOF

For all of us who love playing bridge, Covid was particularly worrying because we would not be able to have our regular games at the club. However, due to technology and the hard work of a number of individuals, about 90% of our 79 paid up members continued playing bridge via BBO – initially pairs events thanks to Arie, Les and Rod, and more recently teams competitions thanks to the efforts of Ricardo, Janet and Audrey. This was enhanced further by Michael's weekly examination of a particularly interesting hand played during the week, while on the teaching front Elzabe managed to complete her Beginners' Bridge Course (interrupted last year by Covid), by doing it very successfully online.

The above was all significantly enabled by the new website created by Les – a major undertaking!

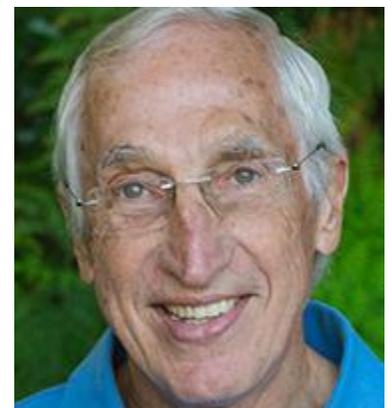
A most pleasing outcome has been the significant uptake in the number of our members having BBO names (from fewer than 10 members early last year to virtually our entire membership of 305). Likewise, the introduction of SABF accounts to control 'fee-generating' tournaments has led to a significant increase in both the number of SABF-affiliated clubs and members specifically - from 150 in 2019 to 305 currently! We understand that similar increases were recorded in the Lower South Coast and Bloemfontein - all at a time when overall SABF membership decreased by 30%.

On a weekly basis we currently host 5 open tournaments (2 of which are graded) and 5 club-specific events, catering for close to 350 players (largely from the Eastern Cape, Lower South Coast and Bloemfontein) – as well as teams events (Audrey recently completed a very well received 5-week round-robin tournament involving PE and Port Alfred).

More recently we investigated the viability of Realbridge as an alternative online platform and due to the many advantages it has over BBO, particularly as regards team events, recommended that it be utilised for the running of all SABF tournaments. This is apparently not currently possible for contractual reasons. Nevertheless we, and the WCBU, currently run multiple pairs and team events – at a club level. In addition the annual National Congress was recently hosted by the African Bridge Federation and proved to be an overwhelming success.

Apart from the above Realbridge is now really making an impact in the teaching field. Elzabe is now utilising it for the Beginners' Bridge Lessons course – its major benefit being that the teacher can see all the hands, interact with all students, and utilise table monitors to facilitate learning. Subsequent RB sessions with hands designed to fit the lessons, assist further in embedding the lesson material. In many ways the lessons are in fact an improvement over the face-to-face club interaction and are now being utilised by the WCBU as well.

And finally, our committee has decided that Arie will be honoured for his tireless efforts by being named the first **Honorary Life Member of the Port Alfred Bridge Club**. It is now 16 years ago that Arie lent Bridge Mates to PABC – our club was at the forefront of using this technology – after which Arie spent countless hours giving and arranging lessons. As



president of our club for close to 15 years he continually encouraged members to participate in various tournaments.

The time and effort Arie has spent on Bridge for all of us is simply not measurable, often sacrificing playing so that we could all continue to enjoy our bridge. Our club will never be able to compensate Arie for all the time and dedication he has given us, but we trust that this nomination recognises the enormous contribution he has made both to the PABC and to bridge in general

The Port Alfred Bridge Club

ENJOYING BRIDGE ONLINE

If you're playing online (and who isn't nowadays?), there are a few things you can do to make the game more enjoyable for yourself and your fellow players.

1. **Turn off all external distractions.** Club bridge necessitates having your phone switched off, and silence during play, but when you're playing at home on a computer, it's easy to leave your phone on, have the TV or music on in the background, or people chatting around you. But just like club bridge, this is inconsiderate to your partner and opposition players as it takes your focus away from the game at hand.
2. **Ergonomics are important.** Time spent in front of a computer can result in repetitive strain injuries, and hours spent playing bridge online can make themselves felt in stiff back and neck muscles. Make sure your computer is setup for optimum ergonomic support! If you're using a laptop, invest in a plug-in keyboard and mouse so you can raise the screen to the correct eye-level.
3. **Learn text abbreviations.** Typing in the chat box can be time consuming, especially if you're not used to playing online.



- Familiarising yourself with text abbreviations so you can send messages quickly and easily, and understand what's being sent will make online chat that much more pleasant. Don't forget to say hi when people join your table!
4. **Slow down.** While timed games may make you feel rushed, you get the same amount of time online as you do at club bridge. Don't rush through the bidding or play as if it's a race. This results in mis-clicks and mistakes that could cost you the contract, or worse, a rejected undo!
 5. **Explore.** Finally, take the time when you're not playing to explore the site you use. Knowing how to navigate your way around the online portals and rooms, find your scores and results, link back to them and share them with others, as well as finding challenges and mini-games available to players can enhance the online experience.

Above all, remember to have fun!

Nicolette Stephens

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

If you want to do well in the tough world of tournament bridge, you have to compete a lot. Especially when it comes to Matchpoints (Pairs) - you have to take some chances and be aggressive. I'm not suggesting wild, cowboy bidding, but you won't do well by sitting back. Here's a case in point.

Dir. West	♠ A84	
Vul. None	♥ 108	
	♦ A9652	
	♣ KJ3	
♠ K105		♠ 32
♥ AK95		♥ 72
♦ QJ10		♦ K73
♣ A107		♣ Q98642
	♠ QJ976	
	♥ QJ643	
	♦ 84	
	♣ 5	

West	North	East	South
1NT	P	P	2♣*
P	2♠	3♣	P
P	3♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: 6♣

Bidding:

*2♣ was a convention called Hamilton, used against the opponents' 1NT opening bid.

It showed both majors, with at least nine cards in the two suits (5-4 or 4-5), and about nine or so points. This venture was a little light, but the good shape persuaded South to get involved.

When East competed with his six card club suit, it was then up to North to decide whether to defend or bid again. Hoping that his partner had a five card spade suit, he carried on.

Play:

The club lead was unfortunate for the defence, because it established the king of clubs for declarer, on which he could discard a diamond loser from dummy. He won the diamond return, and in due course drew trumps and set up the heart suit, making three up, for +140 to North/South, an excellent result.

There are quite a few defensive conventions against 1NT, many of them employing the overcall of either 2C or 2D to show both majors. Of course you cannot then bid a natural 2C/2D, but the loss is definitely worth it, because the frequency of being able to compete with 2 suiters is far more common.

The more I look at the south hand, the more I like the decision to act. The principle of pushing the opponents around and competing is standard procedure for top players.

About the Author

Jeff Sapire, a top-class bridge-player in his own right, has represented South Africa. He 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 call him on 082 551 2526.

THE NEXT GENERATION

For as long as computers have existed there have been programmers passionate about the game of bridge writing code for players to engage with the game in a digital format. With 2020 heralding the arrival of a global pandemic, online bridge saw a sudden surge in players as bridge addicts from around the world sought their fixes.

In South Africa, two sites in particular have grown popular with our members – Bridge Base Online (BBO) and RealBridge. But before we had online bridge there were bridge games designed for play against AI opponents (we all love our BBO robots, right?), and what’s more, in 1985, the BBC released a bridge game console specifically designed for teaching bridge to novices and experts alike!



The BBC Bridge Companion (*left*) was a specially designed, 8-bit video game console that retailed for £199.99 – just £35 short of their Microcomputer released in 1981!

With nine plug-in cartridges, the games were designed to teach players the intricate game of bridge on a luminescent yellow screen that probably induced more migraines than trying to learn the game would!

The game was built by [Andrew Kambites](#), a maths teacher turned bridge programmer and writer.

For some reason, the console never really took off; *The Guardian* described in the device in its headline as “an expensive way of developing your talent, preserving your ego, and protecting your reputation.”

The [article](#) by Mitchell Symons also writes; “...bridge, unlike chess, is a ‘personal’ game where luck, psychology and instinct all play their part. No machine, and the Bridge Companion (unlike its inferior American counterpart) doesn’t attempt to, can replace the interplay of human beings.”



Which just goes to show that as far as advances in technology go, they knew back in 1985 what we are rediscovering with online bridge today: bridge is better with real people than robots!

Nicolette Stephens

SOLUTIONS

CODEWORD

22	B	10	I	5	K	15	E		14	S	4	C	25	A	24	T	24	T	15	E	17	R			
25	A		10	I		7	N		17	R		17	R						7	N			14	S	
4	C	25	A	7	N	16	D	10	I	16	D	25	A	24	T	15	E		6	J	9	O	24	T	
9	O		15	E		20	G		16	D		5	K					9	O			25	A		
7	N	26	U	24	T	14	S	13	H	15	E	11	L	11	L			4	C	3	Y	25	A	7	N
			10	I		24	T		15	E		16	D											23	Z
2	F	10	I	4	C	5	K	11	L	15	E			4	C	10	I	7	N	15	E	12	M	25	A
10	I							3	Y			9	O			14	S			7	N				
20	G	25	A	8	V	15	E			12	M	3	Y	14	S	24	T	10	I	19	Q	26	U	15	E
26	U		10	I		18	W			14	S			25	A			26	U					8	V
17	R	9	O	16	D			15	E	21	X	24	T	15	E	7	N	14	S	10	I	8	V	15	E
15	E		15	E				15	E			15	E			24	T			17	R			7	N
		4	C	9	O	12	M	1	P	25	A	17	R	15	E			22	B	15	E	14	S	24	T
1	P	2	F	3	Y	4	C	5	K	6	J	7	N	8	V	9	O	10	I	11	L	12	M	13	H
14	S	15	E	16	D	17	R	18	W	19	Q	20	G	21	X	22	B	23	Z	24	T	25	A	26	U