



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA  
**THE BRIDGE**

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Special Year-End Edition



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James Grant

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has been a very hard and sad year for our community. Many of us have lost family or friends, not always as a result of COVID-19, and our hearts go out to them and their families. And still this accursed plague hangs over us. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. With the announcement of the development of successful vaccines and their distribution in Europe and America over the coming months we will surely see a reduction in and eventually the eradication of this pandemic. The next few months are going to be the most trying for us, because we

are letting our guard down not only as individuals but as a society. We have grown tired of the sanctions imposed on us and are now taking more risks. We are travelling more, we are visiting friends and families. Fewer people are wearing masks in public places, social distancing is no longer the norm, and we have convinced ourselves that perhaps after all we are immune to this infection. We only have to follow what is now happening in Europe to see the folly in this outlook.

Personally, I would like to think that COVID-19 has forced us re-evaluate what is really important in our lives and those around us and that when we finally emerge from this trauma that has paralysed us as individuals and as a nation we will do so as a society kinder and less selfish than before, if only for a little time.

It remains for me as always to thank my committee consisting of Jocelyn, Roz, Kit, Ann, Helen, Annie, Philip, Graham, Arie and Ice for all their hard work and support during the year and finally a big thank you to our editor Stephen Rosenberg for producing our bulletins.

*James Grant*

## RE-OPENING OF THE CLUBS

We are occasionally asked when do we think the clubs will re-open? The simple answer to this is no time soon but this is a decision we review regularly. For those of you who missed the email sent out a couple of months ago, here it is again.

Although restrictions have eased up in South Africa, the pandemic has not. Given that most of our members fall in the high risk category and that playing social bridge is one of the most effective ways of spreading the virus, we request that all clubs remain closed at least until the end of this year.

We will review this decision in January.

SABF Committee

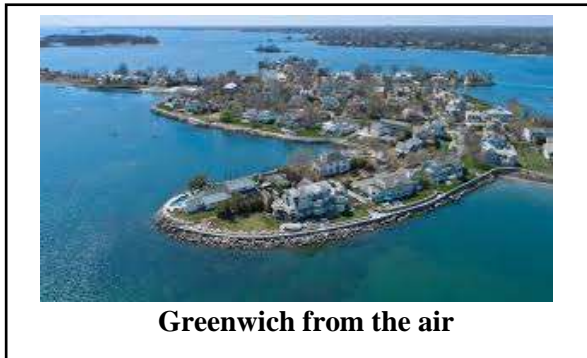
On behalf of your SABF committee, I would like to wish all our members, as appropriate



and a great, safe bridge year in 2021,

*James Grant*

## IT REALLY HAPPENS ON *HANUKKAH* IN GREENWICH, CT.



Greenwich from the air

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

On the First Night of *Hanukkah*, Chabad of Greenwich, Connecticut will host a *Hanukkah* Wonderland for families, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will then be a public *Menorah* lighting at 4 p.m. This year's Wonderland Party will be held at The Greenwich Art Society. The program begins with *latkes* and doughnuts. There will also be fun crafts for the entire family, including *dreidel* snow globe making, foil *Hanukkah* card-making, decorate your own frame, stuff your own *dreidel*, take a picture as Judah Maccabee, and decorate your own doughnut.

Enjoy the story of *Hanukkah* told by Judah Maccabee and a virtual reality tour of Jerusalem. At 4 p.m., there will be a public grand *Menorah* Lighting on a 9-foot-tall *Menorah*, followed by music, games, singing, dancing and chocolate coin *Gelt* for all children.

During *Hanukkah*, open duplicate Bridge games are held at the Greenwich YWCA (sic!). The games are sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League, with masterpoint awards to top finishers. The card fee to play one session is \$15. The Tournament Organiser is Steve Becker, the son of the late, great B. J. Becker.

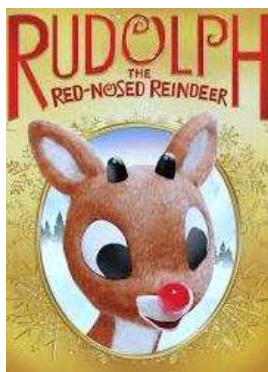


The High Street, Greenwich



He is also the Tournament Director at these sessions. (Note the total absence of men in the playing community!) Becker is active in contract bridge competition. In 1996, Becker and his brother, Michael, were on the same team that won the prestigious Reisinger Trophy, considered the premier event on the New York bridge calendar. Their exploits merited three columns by Alan Truscott in The New York Times. Becker has also compiled victories in the Goldman Pairs (1993) at the

Eastern States Regional tournament in New York, and the North American Swiss Teams (1980) at the Fall North American Championships. He has represented New England ten times in the North American Open Pairs and Teams and has finished fourth or higher in seven major national championships.



# RUDOLPH - THE REAL STORY

by John Swanson

And here's the hand that catapulted Rudolph to fame. Could you have made 6NT?

You know Dasher and Dancer,  
 And Prancer, and Vixen;  
 Comet, and Cupid,  
 And Donner, and Blitzen.  
 Each year before Christmas  
 A match they would play,  
 The elves versus reindeer,  
 Loser's loading the sleigh.  
 Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,  
 Had a very shiny nose.  
 And if you ever saw it,  
 You would even say it glows.  
 All of the other reindeer,  
 Used to laugh and call him names.  
 They never let poor Rudolph  
 Play in section 'A' games.  
 Then one foggy Christmas Eve,  
 Dancer came to say:  
 "Rudolph with your nose so bright,  
 Won't you be our fourth tonight?"  
 The reindeer were trailing  
 With one hand to go,  
 And Rudolph was declaring  
 A skimpy six no.  
 Just eight tricks on top  
 And the finesses offside,  
 But Rudolph came through  
 Barely turning the tide.  
 Then all the reindeer loved him  
 and they shouted out with glee:  
 "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer "You'll  
 down in history!"

Dlr. N Vul. NS	<i>Dancer</i> ♠ AJ7 ♥ Q92 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ K92	
<i>Crackle</i> ♠ T98 ♥ J8 ♦ JT98 ♣ Q874		Pop ♠ Q654 ♥ KT64 ♦ 76 ♣ T65
	<i>Rudolph</i> ♠ K32 ♥ A753 ♦ 543 ♣ AJ3	

Rudolph won the diamond lead and led the spade jack from dummy, covered by the queen and king. He then led a heart to the eight, nine and ten. After winning the spade return the heart queen was covered by the king and ace. A diamond was led to dummy for a heart finesse. Elf Crackle, sitting West, could comfortably discard a club but the last heart squeezed him in three suits. No matter which suit he discarded Rudolph could repeat the squeeze to take twelve tricks.

The elves appealed to Santa for an adjusted score, stating that Rudolph must have had prior knowledge to take such an obscure line of play. Dancer, the reindeer team captain, countered that Rudolph was a disciple of Barry Crane and always played for queens to be over jacks. It is true that the reindeer enjoy a considerable size advantage against the diminutive elves and aided by his bright nose, Rudolph may well have clocked the opposing hands. Regardless, Santa let the result stand.



John Swanson

About the author. *John C. Swanson, Jr.* (born 1937) is an American bridge player living in Lancaster, California. Swanson has won 1 Bermuda Bowl, and 5 North American Bridge Championships.



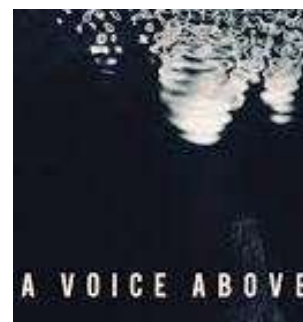
# The Guardian

## TUPIC'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

by Zia Mahmood, 19 April 2020

North	South
♠ A42	♠ 63
♥ AKT65	♥ 942
♦ QJT2	♦ AK987
♣ 4	♣ AK9

As the unluckiest player in the club, Tuplic, picked up his cards on today's deal, a voice addressed him thus. "Here," it said, "is your Christmas present. Use it well." He looked around for the speaker, but apart from the four players at the table he could see no one, and none of the other three appeared to have heard a sound.



Game all, dealer South.

Tuplic swiftly reached six diamonds and West led the king of spades. "Well", thought Tuplic, "if this really is a gift then the heart finesse must be right." He drew trumps in two rounds and played a heart to the jack, but East won with the singleton queen and cashed a spade.



"What is the use," said the voice, "of giving you presents if you are going to treat them like that. Here, try again." To Tuplic's amazement the same cards were dealt. This time Tuplic correctly cashed the ace of hearts. But East didn't play the queen – he played the 10. "Aha", thought Tuplic. "That might be a singleton, or it might be from queen-10 doubleton. The latter holding is more likely to have been dealt, so ..." Tuplic cashed the king of hearts next, but both opponents followed with low cards, and on winning the third round with the queen, West took a spade trick to beat the slam.

"Honestly," said the voice. "Fancy falling for a simple false card like that. Try again."

Tuplic had ceased to be amazed at anything, so when the deal reappeared he won the spade lead, drew trumps, cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of clubs and led a second round of hearts, intending to put in the jack whatever East played on the first round. But this time West showed out, and the slam could no longer be made. "I thought you said this was a present!" Tuplic wailed. "It is," came the reply, "but you have not learned how to use good fortune, which is why you always think your luck is so bad. Once more." At last Tuplic saw how he should play – winning the spade lead he drew trumps, cashed the ace of hearts, played ace and king of clubs to discard a spade from the table, ruffed a club, and exited with a spade. If West had a heart to play, Tuplic would put in the jack and hope for the best – if not, then whoever won the spade would be end-played.



Tuplic



Zia Mahmood

About the author.

*Mir Zia Mahmood* (born 7 January 1940) is a Pakistani-American bridge player. He is a World Bridge Federation and ACBL Grand Life Master and reached his highest ranking in April 2011 as the 10th-ranked World Grand Master. Zia was born in Karachi, British India, now Pakistan. He was educated in England from the age of six to twenty-one. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of England and Wales and spent three years running a family business in Pakistan. He also spent eighteen months in Abu Dhabi developing business interests. He is married to Lady Emma, his wife since February 2001.<sup>1</sup> She is the daughter of Neil Primrose, 7th Earl of Rosebery. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.

# HOLIDAY GIFTS

by Richard Pavlicek

During the holidays, people tend to overindulge not only in food and drink but also in bidding. Consider this deal from my December 2003 contest, "Our Finest Gifts We Bring." North-South seem to have "brought East-West a gift" by overbidding to 3 NT with only 21 HCP. North was the instigator with his light opening bid and push to game. Nonetheless, the strong diamond suit and 4-4 spade break are blessings for declarer, and the "gift" may just be another piece of coal in your stocking.



Dlr: N	♠ 7 2
Vul: EW	♥ T 4 2
	♦ K Q J T 8 7
	♣ A 9

♠ J 9 8 4		♠ A Q 6 3
♥ Q 9 3		♥ K 8 7 5
♦ 9 6		♦ A 5
♣ J 8 6 2		♣ Q 7 5
	♠ K T 5	
	♥ A J 6	
	♦ 4 3 2	
Lead: ♠ 4	♣ K T 4 3	

West	North	East	South
	1♦	X	XX
1♠	2♦	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

This was a defensive play contest, and the problem was how East should defend after winning the first trick with the ♠A. Partner is marked with only four spades (fourth-best leads) and South with the ♠K, so a spade return is futile. Even though West is sure to have the ♠J (with 10-9-8-4 he would lead the 10), declarer will lose only three spades and the ♦A. A number of respondents suggested a club return, hoping to knock out the ♣A and shut out the long diamonds. While this might work, it's really a long shot requiring partner to have the ♣K and at least three diamonds. In the actual layout, declarer simply wins the ♣K and claims soon after.

The best chance to beat 3NT is a heart return, hoping partner has ♥Q-x-x or better; but even this has a hitch. Declarer will duck the heart to West, then a heart return not only surrenders the contract but an overtrick as well. If partner only knew to switch back to spades, you'd be in business.

As East, you know what partner should do, so you should guide him by returning the heart *eight*, a high card suggesting a dislike for hearts. Hence, a good partner should get it right. Out of 854 participants, only 109 found this lead, so defence is clearly an area that needs improvement.



Richard Pavlicek

About the author.

*Richard Pavlicek* (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. Pavlicek began to play bridge in 1964 at the age of 18 while stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany, with the US Army. Upon returning to Florida in 1966, he started to play in bridge tournaments in his spare time. Since then he has won over 400 events and accumulated more than 6,000 master-points. He is a Grand Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and World International Master of the World Bridge Federation (WBF). Pavlicek has won 11 North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting three straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982–84. In 1990, his team mounted a come-from-behind finish to win it again. He won the prestigious Vanderbilt Trophy in 1983, 1986, and most recently in 1995 playing with a team that was arranged the day before the event.

He won the inaugural 1973 Grand National Teams tournament and won the 1997 rendition too; one of his 1973 teammates was Billy Seamon and he played in 1997 with Billy's son Michael. His latest North American win was in 2004 when he and his son Rich became the first father-son partnership to win the Life Master Open Pairs.



# THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

On defence, knowing when to cover an honour with an honour is not always a straight-forward affair. Though we are taught to do so, and in general it is correct, there are quite a few exceptions. Take a look at this hand from a recent team event.

Dir. E Vul. Both	♠ Q975 ♥ 86 ♦ K932 ♣ JT6	
♠ T3 ♥ 543 ♦ Q765 ♣ K753		♠ 6 ♥ AKQT72 ♦ J84 ♣ Q98
	♠ AKJ642 ♥ J9 ♦ AT ♣ A42	

And the bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

It was quite an overbid by South to jump straight to game, facing a 6-9 point raise. Either 3♠, or better still, a trial of 3♣, asking for help, would have been much better.

At table 1, East won the first two heart tricks, and knowing that a third heart would give a ruff and discard, had to decide which suit to return. One of the hallmarks of a good player is knowing when to go 'passive' – that is, not to get 'busy', but rather to leave declarer to go after the other suits himself. Here, East slipped up and returned the ♣8, and now declarer was home. He ducked the club to West, and now there was a simple finesse position against East's ♣Q. East's best defence would have been a trump, not giving anything away and leaving declarer to tackle the minors himself.

At table 2, East initially did find the best defence of a trump return, but then fell from grace. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and led the ♠J. But East covered with the queen and that was the end of the defence. Declarer took the ace and now played a low club towards the ten, for the game-going trick. But what happens if East doesn't cover. The jack runs to West's king, and he can now safely play another club, with East's Q9 sitting over dummy's T6. East simply covers whatever dummy plays, and the defence get the two club tricks to which they were always entitled.

In general, it is not right to cover when there is a JT<sub>x</sub>(x) or a QJ<sub>x</sub>(x) combination. In these instances, you can always cover the honour the second time, if need be.

## 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](mailto:jeffshirl@telkomsa.net), or 'phone him on 011 486 1495 or 082 551 2526.





# TRANSPORTATION!"

by Richard Pavlicek

The Interstate Highway Commission has hired you to make 3NT. Plan the play but watch your transportation!

You hold:

♠ AQ43...♥AQJT...♦AJ4...♣Q3;

Neither side vulnerable; the bidding was quite simple: you opened 2NT which partner raised to 3NT with this hand:

♠KJ92...♥532...♦832...♣J64

West leads the ♠5; then the 2 from dummy, East follows with the 6 and you win in hand.

- What next?
1. Win ♠A, play ♠J, finesse ♥Q?
  2. Win ♠A, finesse ♠9, finesse ♥Q?
  3. Win ♠A, play ♠Q?
  4. Win ♠A, play a low ♥ to the ♥A, play ♥Q?
  5. Something else altogether?

See Richard's Results directly below!



## RICHARD'S RESULTS

### "TRANSPORTATION!"

Your best chance is clearly the heart finesse, which may require *three* leads from dummy. You can ensure the needed entries (barring an unlikely singleton lead) only by winning the first trick with the *Ace*. Continue with the ♠Q, and if West follows, *overtake* with the king to reach dummy for a heart finesse. If the heart finesse wins, you have two more entries, either by finessing the ♠9 (if East showed out) or by leading to the Jack to drop the Ten (if both followed twice).

West held: ♠ 10-8-7-5 ♥ 7-4 ♦ K-10-7-6 ♣ K-10-5



Richard Pavlicek

About the author.

*Richard Pavlicek* (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. (See also Page 5)

Harry is out shopping in Rosebank Mall when he bumps into his friend Sam outside the jewellers. Sam has a small, gift-wrapped box in his hand. "Hi Sam," says Harry, "what have you been buying, may I ask?" "Well, to tell you the truth," replies Sam, "it's my wife's birthday tomorrow and when I asked her what she wanted for her birthday, she said, 'Oh, I'll leave it up to you, darling, but how about something with lots of diamonds in it.'" "So what did you purchase for her?" asks Harry. "I bought her two packs of bridge cards," replies Sam.



Oh yes, this is quite the poetic edition! I haven't a clue who penned this "Ode to Bridge" below! But I'm grateful to my friend David Newton for submitting it for publication. I think it hits a few spots, hmmm? Have a read of Sarita Mathur's "Time to Celebrate" below as well. Ed.



About the author.

*Sarita Mathur is a Durban-based bridge player and established author, having already had books of her poetry published. She writes in the well-established free verse format that dates back to the early Greek poets. The critique on Amazon of her most recent book "Once Again Love – Reconnecting with the Heart" includes the following: "author Sarita Mathur introduces readers to the joy of a life filled with love through a whimsical mixture of poetry and prose. At times heart-breaking....."*

## ODE TO BRIDGE

I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night,  
It's amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.  
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles;  
I can't sleep at night for remembering doubles!  
What to bid, what to lead, and which cards have been played.  
Did my partner's discard mean she wanted a spade?  
So now it's all over – I'm off to the backwood  
I'm bidding good riddance to Gerber and Blackwood.  
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain.  
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.  
I'm giving up bridge -tonight's a bad night;  
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.  
My partner's quite hopeless but tends to blame me,  
When we go down in four but should be in three.  
And I sit there in dread when I hear her say "double".  
She does it a lot and it always means trouble.  
My points are not high and I'm wondering why  
She keeps on and on bidding right up to the sky;  
We're in seven hearts and my nerves are all frayed,  
When wonder of wonders, the contract is made.  
We've got all the tricks, the defenders look grey,  
And I have to admit my partner's okay.  
But ... I'm giving up bridge ... tonight's my last night.  
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight!  
So I end with some words I know to be true,  
Bridge is a game, not for me, but for you.

# TIME TO CELEBRATE

by Sarita Mathur

*(This was written during the Covid-19 induced lockdown in April.  
The sentiments are equally appropriate for this time of year. Ed.)*

Time to celebrate God and Godliness in our Life,  
To love and demonstrate solidarity in cash and kind.  
Not in hugs and kisses; they must be given a miss.  
Social distancing is the norm.  
Life is not a rat race; be at peace and enjoy life's easy pace.  
The Earth 🌍 is breathing air which is pure.  
Dip your hands in your pockets, let the needy feel secure.  
It's a time to smile 😊 knowing God is there;  
Not in temple, church, or mosque, but everywhere.  
Let the human heart be grateful  
For everything we have and can share, knowing for sure  
That God is definitely there.



# WELL MADE FOR CHRISTMAS

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

This hand was played last December in the pre-Christmas tournament, at the Palo Alto Bridge Club on the California Peninsula. NS reached 3NT, by South, after a perfectly normal bidding sequence, and South, who has chosen to remain anonymous, tells the story.



Downtown Palo Alto  
on a Lovely Day!

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	2♦
P	3♦	P	3NT
P	P	P	

Here's the whole deal:

Dlr. N Vul. E/W	♠ KT74 ♥ 6 ♦ T832 ♣ AK98	
♠ Q862 ♥ T832 ♦ J76 ♣ 43		♠ AJ5 ♥ KQ954 ♦ --- ♣ QJT65
	♠ 93 ♥ AJ7 ♦ AKQ954 ♣ 72	

West led the ♥2. While tabling dummy, my partner said, "You have a right to be mad." What he didn't know was that I was looking at nine top tricks. This being a match-points event, it was time to start thinking about overtricks. East played the ♥Q, which I ducked. East thought for a moment, then switched to the ♣Q. I ducked again. East continued with the ♣J, which I won. I cashed my second high club, West showing out, and ran the diamonds. West started with all three diamonds, so East had to find six pitches. Against me, East pitched all of his hearts, perhaps playing his partner for the ♥J (not unreasonable, given that West led a *low* heart, but then, why didn't East continue hearts after the first trick?) But even if East pitches perfect, I can make the overtrick. East must hold

the ♠ A and two hearts at this end-position:

Dlr. N Vul. E/W	♠ KT ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ 9	
♠ Q8 ♥ T ♦ --- ♣ ---		♠ A ♥ K9 ♦ --- ♣ ---
	♠ 9 ♥ AJ ♦ --- ♣ ---	

At this point, I lead a low spade from both hands, East's ace wins, and he must lead a heart for me to finesse. Of course, I don't know for sure that East has the ♠A, but when I run the diamonds, East will be forced to hold two hearts, and, if he holds the ♠A, he will have to pitch away *all* of his clubs. If he doesn't hold the ♠A, he will probably pitch away all of his spades, instead. So when East pitches all of his club, I will play him for the ♠A, and nail him. And if East was brilliant enough to pitch all of his clubs when he didn't hold the ♠A, I would congratulate him on his fine defence, and move on. In retrospect, I don't think much of my bidding. Partner might well have the ♠A, rather than the ♠K, and then 6♦ is

cold. Even as it is, if West has the ♠ A, 6♦ is still cold, making the slam close to 50%. There is even some chance that we could miss an excellent grand slam. Since partner is well shy of his opening bid, and slam is still 50%, I'd have to say I bid my hand timidly.

# THE EXPERT CORNER

by Sven-Åke Bjerregaard

Today I have random thoughts about how South African players can improve their bidding by avoiding some conventions. (I hope I don't lose too many of my friends!)

First, I believe that the following are bad conventions:

## 1. DONT:

- Double equals a one suited hand. What is most disturbing? Double when the opponents can use their standard NT system or 2♣ (or perhaps 3♣)??
- 2 of a minor is a suit bid and an unknown higher suit. You hide your Major where you may have game, yes you sure can even if they open a strong NT.
- Sometimes you get doubled and make it. Remember fit beats points. Always!

## 2. Double of 1NT showing a minor and a major. Same issue – hiding your Major.

## 3. Simpson:

- Used after 1NT and 2♣ and responses to that sequence; asking for distribution. You don't get any indication of playing strength.
- After 1NT - 2♣ some reply 2NT with a Major and minimum points, 3♣ with a Major and a maximum. Why? Let's say you answer 2♥ with both Majors, and Responder invites, he will find out your strength. Instead you should be able to show a minor with slam interest below 3NT.
- I also miss the 5-5 Game Forcing minors opposite 1NT in SA systems

## 4. The Two-over-One system

- I think you should have some sequences when 2/1 is not Game Forcing.
- Forcing 1NT is not good. Why end up in 2♣ on a 5-2 suit when you could have stopped in 1NT and started with 5 Diamond tricks?
- Semi forcing 1NT? Is this the same as semi-pregnant?

But of course, trump support in a Major should be shown at the first possible opportunity. Don't ever bid 1♠ on a 4-card suit over 1♥ if you have 3-card Heart support. Not doing so I think is the worst thing you can do! If you have a Game Force, use Jacoby, else use invitational bids. Of course there are exceptions, but basics will get you a long way.

And now, it's about planning the bidding in teams. Pairs is more like rugby, just kick and run! When the bidding start at the one level, it's a lot of space to 3NT, 4 of a Major and even further to 5 of a minor. Use it carefully in order to find the best contract.

In the 2020 Congress there was a board that some would like to forget. You hold: 7xxx/Q/KJT/KQJTx and partner opens 1♥. What's your bid?

I checked 4 good SA pairs, they all bid 1♠. The opener had --/AKJxxx/A9xx/Axx!

At four of the "expert" tables, the bidding was:

TABLE 1	TABLE 2	TABLE 3	TABLE 4
2♦ – 3NT	1♥ – 1♠ 2♦ – 2NT 3NT	1♥ – 1♠ 3♥ – 4♥	1♥ – 1♠ 3♣ <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> artificial Game Force; I do not know what happened after that!

How can four good pairs have such different bidding sequences?

First rule: *if you consider your hand to be worth game, always bid your longest suit first!* A simple 2♣ would perhaps lead to the laydown Grand Slam!! Those who ended in 3NT lost 5 spade tricks immediately. At table 2 they had a chance to avoid the disaster. If 2NT is just invitational, opener has a choice. He could pass or show extras by bidding his 4<sup>th</sup> suit, 3♣, obviously denying 3S and looking for the right strain. Now they could find the club fit and perhaps end up in 6♣.

And finally, I have often seen pairs bid like this:

1X – 1Y      1X – 2Y  
1/2Z – 3NT    2Z – 3NT

Why hurry? If the opener has some extra distribution he needs to guess. Agree with you Partner what bids are forcing in order to find out more.

# ANOTHER ONE OF THE GREAT LADIES

## NICOLA SMITH

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg



Nicola Patricia Smith MBE, née Gardener (born 28 April 1949), ranks first among Women World Grand Masters both by world master-points that decay annually and by placing points that do not.

She was a member of the 1981 Great Britain team that won the world teams championship for women, the Venice Cup; and (now as Nicola Smith) the team that defended its title in 1985, when it was established as a regular odd-years world championship. She was also on the 2nd-place England team in 2013 and in 2017. She played in eight successive World Team Olympiads, which were held every four years until 2004, winning the silver medal on four occasions. She has won the European Women's Teams on seven occasions (1975, 1979, 1981, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2012), on the first five occasions for Great Britain and on the last two for England. She won the Generali World Women's Individual event in 1994. In 2008, she was part of the English Ladies team that won the Gold at the first World Mind Sport Games (the successor competition to the Olympiad) in Beijing, China partnering Sally Brock. The English team

retained their title in 2012, Smith again partnering Brock. In 2014 she and Brock played together as part of the England team in that year's European Women's Championship. The team finished second, thereby winning the silver medal and qualifying for the finals of the 2015 World Championships.<sup>[6]</sup> In that event the England team won the bronze medal. This was Smith's sixteenth world medal, the most won by any woman.<sup>[7]</sup> In 2016 she was a member of the England team that won the European Women's Championship. This was her eighth win, a record. She was only sixteen when she played in her first international tournament, at Deauville, winning the teams' event in a team which included her father, Nico Gardener, and the young Paul Chemla. She made her representative international debut in the European Championships in Estoril in 1970, partnering Dorothy Shanahan and finishing fourth. She has won the premier British domestic competition, the Gold Cup, on four occasions: 1975, 1984, 1991 and 2015. She has played twice for England's Open team in the Camrose Trophy, which is competed for by the national teams within the British Isles. In 1998, partnering Pat Davies, she was second in the prestigious Macallan Invitational Pairs (previously known as the *Sunday Times* Invitational Pairs). She considers this one of her finest achievements.

She comes from a notable bridge family, her parents, Pat and Nico Gardener, both having played for Britain. She ran the London School of Bridge, which her father had founded in 1952, for many years. She still teaches bridge. In 1981–2 and 1983, she took part in *Grand Slam*, televised matches arranged by the BBC between teams representing Britain and the United States. The British team for the second match was Tony Priday, Claude Rodrigue, Nicola Gardener (as she then was) and Pat Davies. The US team was Neil Silverman, Matt Granovetter, Jacqui Mitchell and Gail Moss. The British team won by 32 international match points over 78 deals in seven sessions. The match subsequently formed the basis of a book, in which she was described as follows: "...one of the finest women players in the world. Not only is she an excellent technician – truly, the daughter of her father Nico Gardener – but is equally aggressive and imaginative both in bidding and defence." She was awarded the MBE in 1995 for her services to bridge. In 2015 she was one of the first two winners of the English Bridge Union's Diamond Award, introduced to recognise players who have "represented England (and earlier Great Britain) with distinction over a long period". In 2017 she was among the first nine players to be made members of the European Bridge League's newly-established Hall of Fame. Outside bridge she has worked as a business administrator, but subsequently trained to be a healer. She married Jonathan Smith in 1983; they have two children.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

## “JACOBY TRANSFERS” researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg



Oswald Jacoby

Jacoby Transfers, named for founder Oswald Jacoby, are used after a player has opened or overcalled a natural 1NT and his partner holds at least one 5-card major suit. Responder naturally wants his side to play in his long suit, but with a weak hand, he would prefer his partner to play the contract. The reasoning is this: if the weak hand plays the contract, the strong hand becomes dummy and exposes its high card points and ten-aces to the defenders. If the strong hand plays the contract, however, the weak hand becomes the dummy, and the opponents have a harder time locating the high cards.

Jacoby Transfers work as follows in response to 1NT:

Response	Meaning
2♦	5+ hearts. Asks partner to bid 2♥.
2♥	5+ spades. Asks partner to bid 2♠.
Opener must complete the transfer by bidding 2♥ or 2♠. However, opener can make a super-acceptance bid of 3♥ or 3♠ if holding 4-card support and 17 points. Some experts like Marty Bergen espouse an approach of making a super-accept whenever holding 4-card support, in accordance with the Law of Total Tricks. Of course, this is up to partnership agreement.	
Responder's rebids after 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - ?	
Pass	A weak hand with 5+ hearts. Opposite a strong 1NT, this shows 0-7 points.
2♠	An invitational hand with 5 hearts and 5 spades. Opposite a strong 1NT, this shows 8-9 points. Non-forcing.
2NT	A balanced or semi-balanced distribution, 5 hearts, and invitational. Partner can pass, sign off in 3♥ or bid 3NT.
3♣	5+ hearts, 4+ clubs and game-forcing.
3♦	5+ hearts, 4+ diamonds and game-forcing.
3♥	6+ hearts, invitational. Partner can pass or bid 4♥.
3♠	Not a part of the original convention but can be played as a singleton/void in spades with slam interest.
3NT	A balanced or semi-balanced (no singletons or voids) distribution with 5 hearts. Partner can pass or correct to 4♥.
4♥	6+ hearts, signoff.
4NT	Quantitative, inviting slam in hearts or no-trumps. Partner is also allowed to correct to 5♥.

# SHORTENING DECLARER'S TRUMPS

by Barbara Seagram

West found himself on lead. He wanted to lead one of his doubletons. After all he had four trumps and could maybe score some extra tricks by ruffing. We love to lead short suits like singletons and doubletons. My hero, Eddie Kantar, says that we love leading short suits so much that we would lead a void if we could!

Rule: When you as a defender have four of declarer's trumps, you should lead your longest other (non-trump) suit in hopes that declarer is short in that suit.

Since you have five diamonds, the odds are that declarer will be short in that suit. This is called the *forcing defence*. You will be forcing declarer to ruff in her hand, the hand where usually the most trumps are located, often called the long hand. This will aggravate declarer no end as you, the defender, will end up with more trumps than declarer. It's not pretty and it is the most brutal defense. It is sometimes referred to as "tapping" or "punching" the

declarer. With all that in mind, West led  $\heartsuit 7$  versus  $4\spadesuit$ . Partner won the Ace and returned  $\heartsuit T$ . West won  $\heartsuit K$  and returned yet another diamond. Declarer was forced to ruff in her hand. Declarer started to pull trumps. She reckoned she would only lose the Ace of trump and the rest was a walk in the park.

West won the first round of trump with  $\spadesuit A$  and led another diamond. Oops, now declarer had to ruff a second time in her hand. She led another high spade and East failed to follow suit. Now West had three spades left and Declarer only had two. When declarer played  $\clubsuit AKQ$ , West scored her second trump trick and when the smoke cleared, the result was down one. In this hand, declarer was powerless to get out of this mess!

Dlr: S		$\spadesuit K96$	
Vul: Both		$\heartsuit KT2$	
		$\diamonds 5432$	
		$\clubsuit J82$	
$\spadesuit A843$		$\spadesuit 5$	
$\heartsuit 76$		$\heartsuit QJ98543$	
$\diamonds KJ976$		$\diamonds AT$	
$\clubsuit 43$		$\clubsuit 765$	
		$\spadesuit QJT72$	
		$\heartsuit A$	
		$\diamonds Q8$	
		$\clubsuit AKQT9$	
West	North	East	South
			$1\spadesuit$
P	$2\spadesuit$	P	$4\spadesuit$
P	P	P	

## About the Author.

*Barbara Seagram* was born in 1949 in Barbados. She is a Canadian Registered Nurse and bridge writer, teacher, and administrator. In addition to being recognized for her professional bridge teaching business and as co-author of twenty-six published bridge books, she is most widely known for co-writing with Marc Smith *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, which received the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year award in 1999. The book is in its 13th printing and has been translated into French, German, Japanese and Danish. Seagram and her husband travel all over the world and have now visited 164 countries. Seagram, in conjunction with Patti Lee of Toronto (and the whole bridge community) has raised funds to build several schools in Cambodia; they now sustain five! In addition, they have raised monies for the Canadian Landmine Foundations for outreach programs for victims of landmine accidents. She is also involved in raising funds for water filtration for remote villages in Laos through Adopt a Village, which also builds

schools in Laos. Seagram and Lee have raised many thousands of dollars annually to each cause with donations from the Toronto and USA bridge communities.



Barbara Seagram

## A BBO CHAT EXCHANGE

North: "Bid!"

South: "I may bid, and I may not bid! I believe that covers all the possibilities!!"



# NZBridge

No, it's not all sheep and rugby in Aotearoa,  
the Land of the Long White Cloud!



## NOT AN EASY SLAM!

This board occurred in a recent North Island Teams. If you fail to find the correct line, do not feel too bad as the success rate of those in slam was not that high:

North Deals	♠ K Q J 2
None Vul	♥ Q 6 4
	♦ —
	♣ 10 9 8 7 4 2
	♠ 6 5 4 3
	♥ A K 3
	♦ A K Q J 8 7
	♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All pass	

As North, you are declarer in 6♠. The above auction is very simple with South asking their partner whether they had good spades with the 5♣ bid, very necessary with their own putrid holding, for slam. Indeed, North did and 16 declarers out of 44 played in 6♠. Let's say the lead is ♥J though this contract can be made on any lead. Of the 16 in slam, only 3 made their contract. Can you?

*(While you try, we can consider 2 other ways the slam could have been bid. Firstly, if you play Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, South could have jumped with their second bid to 5♣, a very unusual action asking for key cards "excluding" the bid suit, clubs. North had one...and subsequently the ♠Q enabling slam to be reached.*

*Simple Blackwood, even Key Card is not so useful as North's "one" could be the ♣A. Missing the trump AK is not normally a recipe for success! This time, however, South would have been lucky.)*

So, back to the play. If trumps break 3-2, then there is almost certainly no problem. If they break 5-0, there is too big a problem! However, a little care is required with the 4-1 break, assuming West holds the four trumps. (Were East to hold say ♠ATxx, there is no play). Win the ♥A in dummy and play a spade to the king.

East's 9 is a warning! Ruff a club and try a second spade to the queen. East shows out! Here's the whole deal on the right: If West were to take their ace at this point, that would be the defence's only trick.

So, now ruff a second club with South's last trump. You have now to hope West has at least 3 diamonds ("please"). West obliges but ruffs the fourth diamond with ♠10. You overruff leaving just ♠2 in your hand, cross-back to dummy and play the fifth high diamond. Whether or not West ruffs with their ace, you can discard the last club and make your contract. A particularly good feeling!

Under half of the 23 declarers in the spade game made 12 tricks though the stakes were not so high. Good bidding and play technique were well rewarded on this deal.

Dlr: N Vul: None	♠ K Q J 2 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 8 7 4 2
♠ A 10 8 7 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ K J 6 3	♠ 9 ♥ J 10 9 7 5 ♦ 9 6 5 3 ♣ A Q 5
	♠ 6 5 4 3 ♥ A K 3 ♦ A K Q J 8 7 ♣ —

# PLATINUM MASTER POINTS

Phillip Alder, April 5, 2015

Platinum master points are awarded only in the top national championships. The player who wins the most platinum points at the Spring Nationals is awarded the Mott-Smith Trophy. In New Orleans last month, the winner was Cédric Lorenzini from France. His major victory was in the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs with Switzerland's Thomas Bessis, whom he led by 4.24 points in the Mott-Smith race.

Lorenzini played excellently in the diagrammed deal from the final session of the Platinum Pairs.

The 2NT rebid by Bessis (North) showed a minor two-suiter with longer clubs than diamonds. East's double indicated a maximum single raise with only three-card heart support. The 3♦ bid by Lorenzini (South) was passed out.

West led the ♠Q (Rusinow) promising the king or a short suit. East overtook with his ace, returned the ♠J and shifted to the ♥T. South won with his jack and led a low diamond to collect West's singleton king with dummy's ace. Now declarer ducked a club.

West won the trick and played a spade. South ruffed in the dummy, cashed the ♥A and ♣A, ruffed a club in his hand and took the ♥K, discarding a club from the dummy.

Everyone was down to three cards. Dummy had the diamond ten-six and a club, East retained the diamond jack-nine-eight and South held the diamond queen-seven and a spade.

South led his last spade and discarded dummy's remaining club. East had to ruff and lead away from the diamond jack. Lorenzini lost only two spades, one club and the ruff by East. Plus 110 was worth 10 match-points out of 13. Minus 50 would have gained only 6 match-points, which would have relegated Lorenzini and Bessis to second, behind Massimiliano Di Franco and Andrea Manno from Italy.

Did you notice East's error? If he had led a third spade at Trick 3, then, when West got his club trick, West could have played his last spade to generate an extra trump trick for East.

About the author.

Phillip Alder was a columnist for The New York Times and a syndicated columnist for 22 years with United Feature Syndicate. His bridge column appeared in over 200 papers worldwide. He has also helped to produce the Daily Bulletins at various WBF Championships and is a member of the WBF Youth Committee. Alder is the Associate Editor of The Bridge World magazine.



Lorenzini and Bessis

Dir. N	♠ 94		
Vul. NS	♥ A9		
	♦ AT63		
	♣ AT975		
♠ KQ87		♠ AJT	
♥ 86432		♥ QT7	
♦ K		♦ J985	
♣ KQ3		♣ J42	
	♠ 6532		
	♥ KJ5		
	♦ Q742		
	♣ 86		
West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	2♥	P
P	2NT	X	3♦
P	P	P	

Lead by West: ♠O



Phillip Alder

I just had to share this one with you, although it has nothing to do with Bridge!

QUESTION: *What do you call the off-spring of a marriage between an Italian and a Jamaican?*

ANSWER: *A Pastafarian!*

# THE CAT'S MEOW

By Anonymous

A very traditional older woman was enjoying a good game of bridge with her girlfriends one evening. "Oh, no!" said the woman, "I have to rush home and fix dinner for my husband! He's going to really angry if it's not ready on time!" she exclaimed! When she got home, she realized that she didn't have enough time to go to the supermarket, and all she had in the cupboard was a wilted lettuce leaf, an egg, and a can of cat food. In a panic, she opened the can of cat food, stirred in the egg, and garnished it with the lettuce leaf just as her husband pulled up. She greeted her husband and then watched in horror as he sat down to his dinner. To her surprise, the husband really enjoyed his dinner. "Darling, this is the best dinner you have made for me in forty years of marriage. You can make this for me any old day." Needless to say, every bridge night from then on, the woman made her husband the same dish. She told her bridge cronies about it and they were all horrified. "You're going to kill him!" they exclaimed. Two months later, her husband died. The women were sitting around the table playing bridge when one of the cronies said, "You killed him! We told you that feeding him that cat food every week would do him in! How can you just sit there so calmly and play bridge knowing you murdered your husband?" The wife stoically replied, "I didn't kill him. He fell off the cupboard while he was licking his paws."



# FOR THE LOVE OF WORDS AND BRIDGE

by Ron Klinger

**Question:** What do you have when you have four players arguing with each other, all shouting at the same time, all objecting to a ruling made by the Director?

**Answer:** *A din of inequity.*

The term '*plotch*' is bridge slang for a dreadful mistake, a blunder. In a recent tournament, after two serious errors, declarer contrived to make yet another mistake. Canberra's Bill Gray, who can spin bridge yarns all day long, was defending and announced: "*Aha. The plotch thickens.*"

South, commenting on the score: "*5 diamonds doubled, by East, down four vulnerable, that's minus 1100.*"

North, to East: "*You got yourselves in a knot there.*"

East: "*We certainly did. Our path to a bottom was paved with nothing but good conventions.*"

About the author.



Ron Klinger

*Ron Klinger* (born 8 November 1941) is an Australian bridge player and a leading English-language bridge writer, the author of more than 50 books on the game. He is an Australian Grand Master and a World Bridge Federation International Master. He was born in Shanghai, one month before the completion of the Japanese occupation, and has lived in Sydney, Australia, since 1946. Klinger has played for Australia seventeen times in the World Teams Championships. He won the Pacific-Asian Open Teams in 1970, the Pacific-Asia Seniors Teams in 2006 and has won the Pacific Asian Open Pairs twice. In the 1976 World Open Teams Olympiad, he won the Bols Brilliancy Prize for best play.



# SOME BITS ABOUT CHARLES GOREN

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

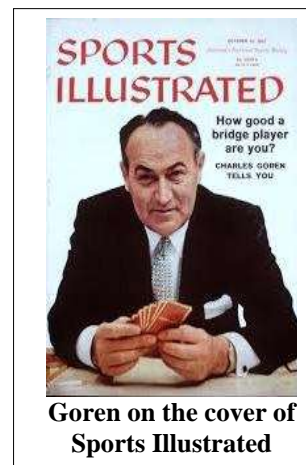
Goren, who has been variously called "Mr. Bridge," "the grand mahatma of big-time bridge," and a superstar, took bridge to its peak of popularity during the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. He attained a level of fame usually reserved in the U.S. for sports heroes and movie stars.

He was born in Philadelphia on March 4, 1901. His parents were Russian-born, Jewish immigrants, originally Gorenstein.

While at McGill in Montreal in the early 1920s, he was invited to play bridge by a young lady, and she laughed at him when he made simple mistakes. "I swore on the spot that I would learn the game and I did." He won his first national bridge title in 1933. He left McGill with a law degree as well the ability to play bridge!

He has been quoted as saying, "As a young man, I was always able to recall precisely every card that had been played and by whom through the previous 35 hands. Now, on my bad days, it's sometimes all I can do to recall the previous 15."

A lifelong bachelor, he was a major attraction in social circles in his prime, and he played bridge with President "Ike" Eisenhower, other heads of state, the Duchess of Windsor, financial magnates and sports stars.



Goren on the cover of Sports Illustrated

## OUR CHRISTMAS CARTOON

by Bill Buttle

About the author.

*Bill Buttle* (1941-2020) was a Canadian-born American dentist, bridge-player and cartoonist who delighted in lampooning the game and its players. His cartoons "Out of Hand" have appeared in many bridge publications and have been collected into a book.



*Oh good. We've been waiting for a fourth all evening!*



# INTERCLUB 2020

Written in 2017:

For my Christmas stocking  
Dear Father Christmas,  
I'm fond of oranges and really like candy,  
A new pack of cards would come in handy,  
And dear, dear Santa it would really be divine  
If our average age was 45 instead of 89  
And dear Santa, if you love me at all,  
Couldn't our national team just once win the Bermuda Bowl?  
But most of all Santa, and now comes the rub,  
Please, please, please let my team win the Interclub.  
Forget the oranges and I'm not that fond of candy,  
I don't need a pack of cards although that would be handy,  
Being 45 again I'm sure would be divine  
But I will be delighted to get to 89  
And dear Santa I know you have a soul,  
We're just glad to be in the Bermuda Bowl,  
But most of all Santa, even if we sub,  
Please, please, please let my team win the Interclub..... \*\*

Written in 2018:

Here's what I didn't get in my Christmas stocking  
I didn't get oranges and I didn't get candy,  
I didn't get a pack of cards although that would be handy,  
But dear, dear Santa I'm feeling rather glad  
Coming second in the Interclub really wasn't bad

Written in 2019:

In my Christmas stocking this year  
"With seven spades and seven tops  
As we got into gear  
Do you suppose in Interclub  
That coming first was clear?  
I doubt it, said my partner,  
And brushed away a tear"

Written in 2020:

And in my Christmas stocking this year  
This year's Interclub was really, really bad,  
Many of the players were getting rather mad,  
And as the guy responsible I suppose I should feel sad  
But dear, dear Santa I knew you always would  
Grant me my wish as only Santa could,  
Winning the Interclub felt really, really good!

Whoooopeeee!

With apologies to A A Milne.

*James Grant*

# UP AND UP THEY GO!



Here you will find a list of those players who have been promoted into the National and Regional levels since our last report. Sorry, there are just too many to include all the Club and Local Masters. As requested, the list is in alphabetical order of surnames. Congratulations to you all on your achievement!

Gill Blumberg	SAWBA Ladies	National Master
Ellen Bryans	Western Cape	Regional Master
Linda Campbell	KZNBC	National Life Master
Chris Convery	Western Cape	Premier Life Master
Duncan Craggs	Bridge@Orchards	Regional Master
Kathy Driver	Hillbrow Bridge Club	Grandmaster
Pauline Fulton	Hillbrow Bridge Club	Regional Master
Caryl Gerza	Highway Bridge Club	Regional Master
Doreen Harris	Helen's Tuesday Club	Regional Master
Harry Hirsch	Highway Bridge Club	Regional Master
Jennifer Milne	SAWBA Ladies	Regional Master
Anders Morath	International	Life Master
Trudi Newton	Plettenberg Bay	Regional Master
Alison Norton	The Links	Regional Master
Susan Rawlinson	Hillbrow Bridge Club	Regional Master
Mary Schneider	Friday Morning Club	Life Master
Jackie Suhr	KZNBC	Regional Master
André van Niekerk	Western Cape	Premier Life Master
Bill Wilkie	Benoni Northerns	Life Master

For a complete list of promotions this year to date go to <http://www.sabf.co.za>



to my regular contributors

Sven-Ake Bjerregaard  
James Grant  
Jeff Sapire

whose articles and insights have helped to keep “The Bridge” both local and relevant!

And on a personal and more sombre note, farewell to my friend, colleague and mentor, Heidi Atkinson, who passed away recently after a short illness. She will be sorely missed, not only in her beloved Knysna but throughout the South African bridge world.

Stephen Rosenberg, Editor

