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## THE GBU BRIDGE BULLETIN

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## FROM the CHAIRMAN

By the time you read this message bridge at the various clubs will be back in full swing and I believe the starting date is from the first weekend of January for most of them.

It is an action-packed start with a new out-of-town tournament, then the various trials for the S A teams; SAWBA this year is in Pretoria, and they will be looking for a good entry from us Joburgers. If you have never entered an open event or tournament, make this the year when you try it out. They are a lot of fun and you will make new friends for sure. There is a lovely sense of camaraderie and playing against different opposition definitely improves one's own game.

I have some new ideas which I want to run past my fellow committee members at our first committee meeting in mid-January so hopefully they will be acceptable, and I can write about them with details of dates, venues etc in a later Bulletin. Meantime I expect many members have been playing socially or reading bridge books on holiday or playing bridge on line to keep their hand in on this most addictive pastime of ours - bridge.

My personal New Year resolution is to improve my standard of bridge and become more consistent! I think it is the ability to play steadily and regularly with over 50% scored on each outing which sets aside the higher ranked players from the rest of us. That has to be my aim. I also recall this simple advice from Craig Gower - remember that defence play is just as important as playing out a hand as it should occur just as often in a session of bridge at a club where the hands have been computer dealt. I hope to meet even more Gauteng bridge players in the course of 2019!

Yours in bridge,

*Deirdre Ingersent*

Chairman GBU

## EDITORIAL "IT'S ONLY A MATTER of TIME"

As a bridge-player and a Tournament Director, I find unnecessarily slow play to be a most irritating habit!



You all know what I mean. First, we have the player who removes a card from his hand, spends an inordinate amount of time looking at it, returns it to hand, and then eventually ends up playing that very same card! Or that *sooooo* thoughtful player who needs a very long think before every call or every play!!

Nobody is saying that players are not allowed to think, or to consider their options, but there are limits. The limits are set by the amount of time the Tournament Organiser has allocated for you to bid and play each hand – normally 7 minutes, an accepted international standard. And if you start a round late, for whatever reason, even if it's not your own fault, it is your responsibility to catch-up; make-up the time! Unnecessarily slow play, apart from being irritating is also very selfish. Because one or two people are thoughtless and inconsiderate, thirty to forty other players are wilfully and knowingly inconvenienced because the whole timing of the tournament is thrown out. So, I am most grateful to Peter Bircher for the article on Page 8. Please read it!

*Stephen Rosenberg*

Editor

# AROUND the CLUBS



The year ended on a high note at BRIDGE@ORCHARDS! First, there was the 24-table all-day Festive Pairs' Challenge; nearly 100 contestants playing 48 challenging boards, interspersed with the usual high standard of teas and lunches. The Challenge winners and runners-up were:



Winners Val Bloom and Tas Nestoridis



Runners-up Rob Solomon and David Newton

December 9<sup>th</sup> also saw the end of the inaugural *Road to Orchards* with total prize-money of over R 20 000,



thanks to the generous sponsorship of

TOYOTA

Fourways.

The BRIDGE@ORCHARDS team wrote, on their web-site:

*"After almost a year of competition, the Halfway Toyota Road to Orchards reached its conclusion at the Orchards Festive Challenge on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Aira Kloppe presented the amazing prizes together with Martin Kloppe, Dealer Principal of Halfway Toyota Fourways, upon whose incredibly generous sponsorship the competition was based. Congratulations to Sugar Rhodes and all the other prize-winners. A special mention to Gill Lazarus, who played an incredible 86 Qualifying events and is our first MSP (Most Supportive Player)." (Full results on the BRIDGE@ORCHARDS web-site. Ed.)*



Sugar Rhodes receives her prize from Aira and Martin Kloppe



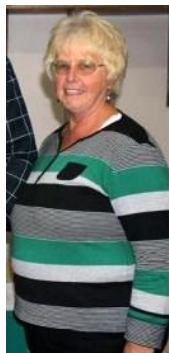
Most Supportive Player, Gill Lazarus looking very pleased!



An obviously delighted Koen Vreenegoor and Lone Smit.

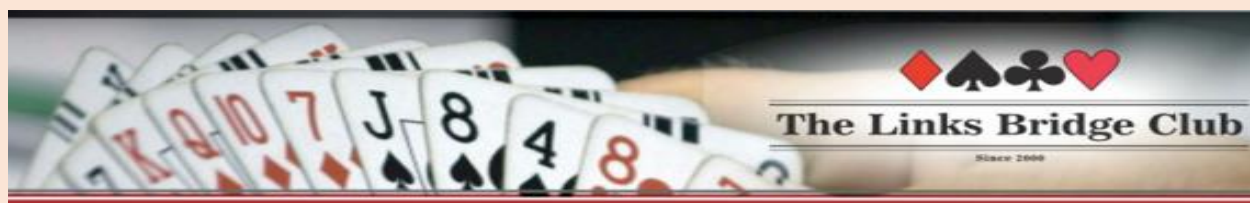
# AND THIS from BENONI NORTHERNS

Following the article in the December issue of The Bridge, Lisa Adamson writes:



*"Hello Stephen,  
I absolutely love The Bridge and commend you highly on what you are doing. Your combination of wit, intrigue and seriousness is wonderful. I love Larry Cohen and use his articles often at my version of "Gentle Bridge" at Benoni Northerns on Monday afternoons. More about Mondays. We have 3 or 4 tables each afternoon and play 15 boards. I try to start each session with a short input regarding bidding of an interesting hand, or bridge sayings like "one-two that will do".  
It is "walk in" with no partner required. If I play, I do a little tutoring with the pair I play against, if I am an extra person, I move around watching bidding and play and trying to give helpful advice.  
Keep up the good work. I look forward each month to the arrival of "The Bridge"  
Yours in Diamonds,*

*Lisa Adamson, Benoni Northerns Bridge Club"*



## EVENTS at THE LINKS

by *Peta Feinstein*

### THE LINKS SATURDAY AFTERNOON 'GENTLE TOURNAMENT'

This is an invitation to all social players and players new to the tournament environment to join us at The Links, every alternate Saturday, starting January 12<sup>th</sup> 2019. The tournament is held separately from the main tournament and offers:-

- Your own tournament director, who will guide you in a friendly atmosphere and teach you the rules and basic bridge etiquette.
- Players are able to ask the tournament director for guidance as play continues
- Time limits are relaxed
- Play with people of similar strength to you and develop confidence and experience in a relaxed environment.
- Play starts at 1.45.
- You can arrive without a partner – we will provide one for you.
- Either just arrive at the club by 1.30 or contact Robert Stephens at [thelinks@netactive.co.za](mailto:thelinks@netactive.co.za) or 011 640 1914.

### THE LINKS INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

Join us on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February for the chance to find your dream partner! Come on your own and play a session of duplicate bridge with up to 13 different partners. Our hope is that those who don't have regular partners will find a partner with whom they "click". This is open to players of all levels and you'll be guided through the session with some professionals. ENTRY IS FREE, but PRE- REGISTRATION is required for planning and catering purposes.

You can register online on the GBU website, [gbu.co.za](http://gbu.co.za), or contact Robert Stephens at [thelinks@netactive.co.za](mailto:thelinks@netactive.co.za)

Place:- The Links, 147 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Linksfeld

Time:- 13.15 to start at 13.30

Date:- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019



# DID YOU KNOW?

## 1. ASKING to REVIEW the BIDDING?

Of course, during the auction period, a player is entitled to have all previous calls restated, including alerts, when it is his turn to call. After the final pass, declarer (when playing from dummy for the first time) or either defender at his first turn to play may require all previous calls to be restated – but may not ask for a partial restatement or halt the review! After the final pass, and throughout the play period, either defender at his turn to play may request an explanation of a particular call. In the same way, declarer, at his or dummy's turn to play, can ask for an explanation of a defender's call or carding.

In both the instances above, a player may ask only about a single opposing call but beware that you are not doing this primarily to give your partner unauthorised information!

Law 20, which deals with these matters, is far lengthier and more complex than I have outlined, especially when dealing with mistaken explanations, but the summary should give you enough to go on!

## 2. WHAT'S IN A NAME? “HAMILTON aka CAPPELLETTI”

This convention is known by two names because two American experts, Fred Hamilton and Mike Cappelletti, are both credited with its introduction. For simplicity, and because of common usage in South Africa, we'll call it Hamilton!

Hamilton is a defensive bidding convention for use after an opponent who has opened 1NT. The common local over-caller's available conventional calls, which differ from those used in the USA are as follows:

Over Call	Meaning
X	A double is usually for penalties.
2♣	Asks for the majors.
2♦	Promises a six-card major.
2♥	At least 5-4 in hearts and a minor.
2♠	At least 5-4 in spades and a minor.
2NT	At least 5-5 in clubs and diamonds.

There are a whole slew of responses to all these over-calls in the Hamilton convention. If you feel

you would like to use it, just *Google* Hamilton Bridge Convention, or better yet, ask your teacher.

Check-out the “*Gates Double*” for more on a penalty double over a 1NT opening. You can also look up “*Multi-Landy*” or “*Woolsey*”, which is very similar to Hamilton but has different meanings for the 2♣ and 2♦ over-calls.

## 3. BARBARA SMITH'S COLUMN “How to Find a Miracle”

Sometimes you have to delay drawing trumps, because dummy's trumps may be needed for other purposes.

Dlr. South NS Vul.	T75 K74 AK973 63	
QJ4 J92 QT5 AT42		K932 T5 J86 K985
	A86 AQ863 42 QJ7	

You and your partner slightly over-bid this hand and end up in a difficult 4♥ contract:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

\*not 2-over-1

If you study the hand, you'll see that you have two club and two spade losers. Your only chance to make this contract is if Diamonds break 3-3, and an unwritten Law says that if there is only one way to make your contract, play for it!

Take the Spade lead in hand with the Ace. Draw two trumps with the Ace and the Queen. Then play the Ace and King of Diamonds and trump a third diamond in your hand, before playing a small trump to the carefully preserved King of trumps in dummy. Discard two losers on your good Diamonds and make game! Lucky, but we all deserve some luck now and again!



## BIDDING by RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Vulnerability is very important in many bridge bidding decisions. For borderline cases, go "low" if you are vulnerable but be aggressive if not vulnerable.

### Opening Bids:

1. Assuming you open most 12-counts, have no qualms about opening 1♣ with this hand regardless of vulnerability; with all of those tens and two decent four-card suits, this should be everyone's opening bid.

♠ K103

♥ Q1087

♦ A2

♣ K1087

2. However, what if we change it to:

♠ Q105

♥ A643

♦ KJ3

♣ Q32

Aggressive players will open this hand no matter what. I recommend opening it if not vulnerable but pass if vulnerable. If you open and go down vulnerable to the tune of -200, it is usually a bad result.

### Overcalls:

Again, resolve borderline cases based on vulnerability.

RHO opens 1♠ and you are considering a 2♣ overcall with:

♠ 105

♥ A3

♦ KJ3

♣ K108762

Vulnerable, I'd pass. Not vulnerable, I'd overcall 2♣. Aside from the risk factor vulnerable (-200, -500, etc.), your partner will expect more from a vulnerable overcall--and might get you too high if you don't have your bid.

### Pre-empts:

Everyone has their own personal style, aggressive or conservative. But within that framework, you have to observe the vulnerability. Again, resolve borderline cases by looking at the colours; everyone would open 2 with:

♠ KQJ1087 ♥ 43 ♦ 43 ♣ K87 Here, vulnerability is not an issue, but, what about:

♠ KQ9765

♥ 43

♦ 43

♣ Q76

Vulnerable, I wouldn't do it, but very aggressive bidders would. But, not vulnerable, I wouldn't mind opening 2♠. Position is also relevant; in 2nd position, pre-empts should be sounder than if you are the dealer or in 3rd seat.

# SHOW ME THE HANDS!

## 1. PETER'S PUZZLE – MAKING 13! by Peter Bircher

23 November 2018. Contract 6 spades by West

After congratulating yourself for making 12 tricks in spades, you open the slip and discover that you could

<b>12</b>	♠ Q3 ♥ J96 ♦ J109642 ♣ Q2	Dlr: W Vul: N-S
♠ A942 ♥ K3 ♦ AQ3 ♣ A754	♠ KJ85 ♥ AQ72 ♦ 7 ♣ K1086	
6 17 13 4	♠ 1076 ♥ 10854 ♦ K85 ♣ J93	♣♦♥♠NT N - - - - S - - - - E 6 3 5 7 6 W 6 3 5 7 6

have made 13. You are in good company, however, as no-one bid or made the extra.

At the end of the day's play, you have a chance to analyse the whole hand and work out what you should have done to make all the tricks for a top.

The opening lead was, universally, the  giving you two diamond tricks.

The  is well positioned, allowing you to pick up the spades without loss.

The trick-count then, is 4 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs and a diamond ruff for 12 tricks. No matter how the hearts

break you have only 3 and, as the Queen-Jack of clubs don't drop in 2 rounds, you may wonder how you make the 13<sup>th</sup> trick, assuming best defence, of course. (*Have a go at it yourself, then see Peter's solution on page 7*).

## 2. ONE from JOHN LOWENTHAL

John Martin wrote that "John Lowenthal had a different approach to bridge. He focused on the objective and asked himself how to achieve it. No play was so bizarre that he would dismiss it out-of-hand, and so he would make winning plays that others would not even consider! Look at this deal, John Lowenthal sitting with the very unpromising East hand.

	KJT876	
Dlr.: South	<b>AJ4</b>	
Vul.: Both	<b>3</b>	
	643	
9		Q5432
<b>Q9732</b>		<b>86</b>
<b>KJ874</b>		<b>T5</b>
AT		J872
	A	
	<b>KT5</b>	
	<b>AQ962</b>	
	KQ95	

And the bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Me		John	
P	1♠	P	1♦
P	2♠	P	2♣
P	3NT	ALL	PASS

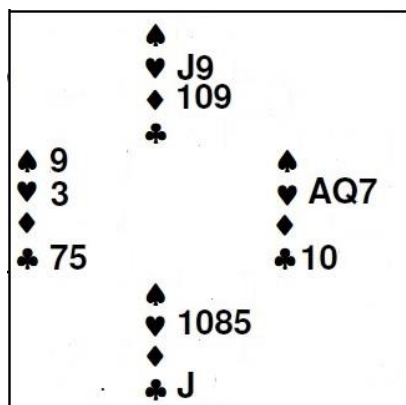
I led the 3♥. Declarer won with the 10, cashed the spade Ace, and returned a low heart. I played the Q♥ to kill the only entry to the spade suit. Nice play! Declarer, realizing he should have won the first trick with the K♥, tried to recover by cashing the K♠, pitching the K♥. He continued with the J♠ to John's Queen, pitching a diamond while I pitched hearts. John switched to the 2♣ - Q - A - 3. When I returned the T♣, John gave it some thought, then overtook with his Jack! Declarer and kibitzers alike were wide-eyed in wonder! Declarer took his two club tricks and the played A♦ followed by a small diamond. I now made my second "nice play"! I hopped up with the Jack, crashing John's 10, cashed the K♦ and exited with another diamond. John took the setting trick with the 8♣.

I was pleased with my two "nice plays", both pretty standard; but John's J♣ was on a totally different level. What happens if he plays low, as most of us would do? Declarer would have made the hand, ducking (playing the 9), and I would have had to lead into his A-Q of diamonds. Declarer would then play King and another club to John's Jack, forcing him to lead into dummy's winning spades! Had I been sitting in John's seat, I suspect that I would see it was the right play, provided I thought of it. But I doubt very much that it would even have crossed my mind!"

*John Martin*

# PETER'S PUZZLE: A SOLUTION

After playing 3 rounds of trumps you get back to hand with a heart, you cash the other top diamond and ruff the three. You then cash the K-A of clubs to arrive at this position:



When you cash you last trump, discarding the ♣ 10, South has a major headache, caught is a squeeze, without recourse.

He watched his partner's ♣Q fall on the second round, so he knows that if he throws the ♣J you make an extra club trick.

If, on the other hand, he keeps the ♣J, he has to throw a heart setting up the ♥ 7 for your 13<sup>th</sup> trick!

*Peter Bircher*



## THE DEATH of BARRY CRANE



Unlike many outdoor sports like football, cycling, athletics and cricket, the bridge world has not been constantly wracked by scandal. Although bridge has had its fair share of cheats, frauds, and even murders, compared to physical sports, it has a rather tame history. However, there has been the occasional big story. Certainly the most sensational story of the modern bridge era was the brutal murder of top player Barry Crane in 1985. At the time of his death, Crane was the top-ranked bridge player in the USA and is often considered the greatest match point player of all time. He passed the at-the-time unheard-of mark of 30,000 masterpoints at a Denver tournament in the early 1980s. An announcement was made, and he took a bow. His table was always surrounded by kibitzers. When Crane died, his closest competitor, Paul Soloway, was a distant 11,000+ masterpoints behind. Soloway didn't catch up until 1991, six years after Crane's death.

Crane was also a big name in Hollywood, a famous producer and director of a slew of hit TV shows including the very popular "Mission Impossible" and "Dallas" as well as many others. An exceedingly rich man, he rarely let his love of the game interfere with his work. He could afford to fly long distances to tournaments on weekends just to play a day or two and then be back on the set Monday morning. Crane was a multiple winner of the American Contract Bridge League's McKenney Trophy race for most masterpoints won in a single year, and he had hundreds of regional titles to his credit and dozens of national championships. The McKenney competition was renamed the Barry Crane Top 500 in his honour. He was a regular at regional tournaments. The bad news was actually announced during a Denver sectional tournament in 1985 and came as a shock: Barry Crane had been bludgeoned to death in his home. Robbery was apparently not a motive. To this day, the murder remains unsolved. In any event, the bridge world lost one of its greatest and most colourful players. Barely a handful of Top 500 races since then have had the suspense, drama and interest that always seemed to be present when Barry Crane was going for the title!

The crime has never been solved; in fact, no-one has even been questioned as a likely suspect. The police could not find a single person with a feasible motive for murdering Barry Crane. His murder remains one of the great unsolved crimes in American history.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP TO SPEED UP PLAY

by Peter Bircher

One of the universal complaints at bridge clubs around the world is slow play. Players who play within the time constraints get irritated waiting for the slower players to finish late. Club or standard tournament bridge is a timed event. Just like most sports you have a set time to complete the boards in any particular round. You have a duty to keep to the time constraints. Directors have a hard time cajoling players to move. Fining the slow pair is difficult and causes animosity. How should one go about improving one's ability to play within the limits set?

## 1. General

- Leave the post-mortems to the end of the round or, better still, to the end of the session
- Do *not* coach, either your partner or the opposition. That is both illegal and a time waster. Get on with the next deal. That hand won't come up again in your lifetime, or in fact for about another billion years!
- Do *not* remove cards from the boards after they have been returned, as it is not allowed. Use the traveller if you have to know what partner was bidding on! Only a brief look at the slip is permitted.

## 2. During the bidding

- Your partner is dealer. While he is pondering what to bid, think of your possible responses to 1NT, 1 of a major, a minor opening, etc. now, *before* it's your turn to bid
- If your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with 1NT, you can already start thinking about your opening lead! In most cases, even if they play in a suit, 9 times out of 10 it will be you on lead
- Don't ask for details of any alerted call unless you need to know – only if you think your side is also in the bidding. If not, wait for the clarification period
- When you have decided that enough is enough, place your pass card (the third in a row) on the table so that the other players know that the auction is complete.

## 3. You are on lead

The clarification period has begun . . .

- You can ask about any alerted calls that may need explanation, *before* you select a lead
- Don't enter anything on your personal sheet or into the scoring device just yet. Get the lead on the table first. This is important!
- Place your lead card on the table face down. If partner of the leader has no queries then the clarification period ends
- Dummy must spread the hand immediately after the lead is faced, *not* after recording the contract details either on their personal sheet or the device. This is also important!

## 4. During Play.

- Once dummy is faced, a skilled declarer spends time thinking about the whole hand, not just the suit led. Despite the topic under discussion, I encourage you to pause for thought. This is not the time for hasty decisions. As dummy, don't 'helpfully' flick a singleton in the suit led into the played position. This may take away time declarer was intending to use to plan the *whole* hand
- Now is the time to write, and/or enter contract details into the Scoring Device
- But while declarer is taking stock so should you, as defender, give thought. You can now see half the pack. Look at dummy - count dummy's points and distribution and work out what partner might have in high card points and distribution.
- Start preparing for any card that declarer may lead from dummy, not just the opening lead – think ahead. But don't rush your play, just get used to playing in tempo. It is so much harder for declarer if you take the same time to play small from 852 as from Q52.

## 5. The Claim.

A claim (or concession) is totally legal and you are encouraged to do so but make sure that:

- You set out clear and specific steps validating your claim.
- Believe me, detailing your claim actually saves time! There is nothing worse than losing time because of a disputed claim!

## 6. Next round

When called to move, please cease discussion of the last hand and move swiftly to your next table. Yes, move please!



