



PROMOTING the GAME of BRIDGE in SOUTH AFRICA

# THE BRIDGE

Edition 11  
July 2020



Publisher: The S A B F  
[www.sabf.co.za](http://www.sabf.co.za)  
Ed.: Stephen Rosenberg  
[stephen@valuersinc.co.za](mailto:stephen@valuersinc.co.za)



*James Grant*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*But all the king's horses  
And all the king's men,  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*



Which is very much where our world is now. But in a way our community is luckier than most as bridge lends itself to this new virtual world we now live in much better than most sports. I have watched a couple of football matches played in stadiums empty of supporters and was amazed to hear the cheers and roars of approval in the background whenever a goal was scored. It was as if the match was being played in front of 60,000 spectators. I mean, who are they kidding? It puts me in mind of American comedy shows where the only indication that someone might have said something funny is the canned laughter in the background.

But many of us wouldn't be playing online at all if it wasn't for the hard work put in by the likes of Malcolm Siegel, Andrew Cruise, Tim Cope, Steve Bunker and Andre Truter down in Cape Town, Heidi Atkinson and John Gibson in the Southern Cape and here in Gauteng our very own Rob Stephens who I swear would open up a tournament at 2 in the morning if he believed there was a demand for it. Not forgetting of course the granddaddy of all our directors, Sid Ismail who has been running tournaments on BBO for more years than I can remember. So a warm thank you to all of them from us. And then there are those behind the scenes who are keeping the wheels turning in the background. Hilary Nick and Cary Roberts in the Cape, Jenny Ten-Bokum in Natal, Rod Pienaar and Eric Annegarn in Margate, Arie Ridderhof and Les Lombard in the Eastern Cape, Lotte Sorensen, Lorna Speller and Jocelyn Morris here in Gauteng. A big thank you to them too.

This pandemic has turned our world upside down and has brought untold suffering to millions of our less fortunate countrymen who through no fault of their own have been left with no visible means of support. So I will finish this article by appealing to all of you who can, to reach out a helping hand to those people be it through your local synagogue, church, temple or mosque, food bank or charity.

To quote Ann Frank "No one has ever become poor by giving"

*James Grant*

What would we do without BBO? About 30 years ago the first online bridge club was formed and called OKBridge. To play there as I recall there was an annual subscription and for many of the newer online clubs that have sprung up since then, this has been the standard model. BBO which was launched just 19 years ago proved to be the exception as here you could play bridge for free thanks in large part I suspect to a very generous donation from Bill Gates, an avid bridge fan and one of its founders.

However to continue as a going concern it had to raise money and in the beginning this was through advertising; then it introduced BB\$ tournaments run by its own people where you paid an entry fee and if you did well were rewarded with BB\$ and ACBL master-points. Then later on you could pay to play against robots and even more recently they opened their BBO Prime club where you pay to play with a better level of players. No one dreamt of running tournaments on BBO and charging locals for playing in them. All that changed with COVID-19. Suddenly clubs and individuals were running “free” tournaments for which they charged. BBO was not slow to cotton on to this and reasoned that if you were using their platform this way then it was only fair that you be charged for the service. Since April of this year they have been approaching the National Bridge Organizations around the world asking them to sign a contract to this effect. Most National Bridge Organizations believe they have a moral obligation to enter into this agreement should they wish to continue to use this platform to raise money for their clubs. Some National Bridge Organizations don't and they are no longer playing on BBO. Perhaps because we are so small, or far away, or come towards the end of the alphabet, BBO only contacted us towards the end of last month and given that we would like to continue using their platform to raise money for our clubs we too believe it is only right that we enter into a contract with them.

This means that things will change from the end of this month and you union may already be telling you what will happen. Our tournaments will no longer be held under Free Tournaments but will be found under BBO Points tournaments. The entry fee will be in BB\$ which you will have purchased beforehand. I won't attempt to give you instructions as to how to go about it here as I am quite sure your union will do a far better job than I can.

However, I want to share this with you. Some of our virtual clubs are in the fortunate position of having no overheads and any money they collect from their players goes to charity or to cover TD costs. But other clubs are fighting for their very survival and the only means open to them for raising money is through the online tournaments that they run. Here in Gauteng both The Links and Bridge@Orchards fall into this category and down in the Cape all of the money they raise there goes towards paying for their ongoing operating and administrative costs. Now that we have signed up with BBO they will have to raise their entry fee to meet their ongoing costs. They count on you for your continued support and I trust you will give it to them. These are our clubs, and their future is our responsibility

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB TEAM MATCHES

by James Grant

Imagine if you will that Northerns challenged Port Elizabeth to a team match with no limit on the number of teams who could participate, or Margate challenged Keurboom? Who would put their names forward to be part of one of those teams? In the real world this would never happen as the cost of organizing these events would be exorbitant, but in the fantasy world in which we now live this has become the easiest thing to do. The point I am trying to make is that we are looking for teams to enter the above competition that would be quite happy to put their names down for a similar local match. We are simply making it more fun by challenging overseas clubs. And just because they are overseas clubs doesn't mean they are endowed with super powers and will make mincemeat of us, they are clubs exactly like ours with members exactly like ours capable of making exactly the same mistakes as us.

To enter is simple. You will find entry forms on all of our websites and when a suitable occasion arises we will contact you and ask you to play. We are looking for the good, the bad and the ugly here so don't feel you might be too strong for this sort of game as our opposition often field one or two strong teams. Nor should you feel you are too weak to enter. The other night one of our opposition teams bid to 5♥ doubled going 9 off. If you feel you can do better than this, you're in.

# AT THE BRIDGE TABLE, CLUES TO A LUCID OLD AGE

by Benedict Carey, The New York Times, May 21, 2009



Georgia Scott, 99, centre, during a game of bridge at her retirement community.

**LAGUNA WOODS, Calif.** The ladies in the card room are playing bridge, and at their age the game is no hobby. It is a way of life, a daily comfort and challenge. “*We play for blood,*” says Ruth Cummins, 92, before taking a sip of Red Bull at a recent game. “*It’s what keeps us going,*” adds Georgia Scott, 99. “*It’s where our closest friends are.*”

In recent years, scientists have become intensely interested in what could be called a super memory club: the fewer than one in 200 of us who, like Ms. Scott and Ms. Cummins, have lived past 90 without a trace of dementia. It is a group that, for the first time, is large enough to provide a glimpse into the lucid brain at the furthest reach of human life, and to help researchers tease apart what, exactly, is essential in preserving

mental sharpness to the end. “*These are the most successful agers on earth, and they’re only just beginning to teach us what’s important, in their genes, in their routines, in their lives,*” said Dr. Claudia Kawas, a neurologist at the University of California, Irvine. “*We think, for example, that it’s particularly important to use your brain, to keep challenging your mind, but all mental activities may not be equal. We’re seeing some evidence that a social component may be crucial.*”

Laguna Woods Village, a sprawling retirement community of 20,000 south of Los Angeles, is at the centre of the world’s largest decades-long study of health and mental acuity in the elderly. Begun by the University of Southern California researchers in 1981 and called the 90+ Study, it has included more than 14,000 people aged 65 and older, and more than 1,000 aged 90 or older. Such studies can take years to bear fruit, and the results of this study are starting to alter the way scientists understand the aging brain. The evidence suggests that people who spend long stretches of their days, three hours and more, engrossed in some mental activities like cards may be at reduced risk of developing dementia. Researchers are trying to tease apart cause from effect: Are they active because they are sharp, or sharp because they are active? The researchers have also demonstrated that the percentage of people with dementia after 90 does not plateau or taper off, as some experts had suspected. It continues to increase, so that for the one in 600 people who make it to 95, nearly 40 percent of the men and 60 percent of the women qualify for a diagnosis of dementia.

At the same time, findings from this and other continuing studies of the very old have provided hints that some genes may help people remain lucid even with brains that show all the biological ravages of Alzheimer’s disease. In the 90+ Study here, now a joint project run by U.S.C. and the University of California, Irvine, researchers regularly run genetic tests, test residents’ memory, track their activities, take blood samples, and in some cases do post-mortem analyses of their brains. Researchers at Irvine maintain a brain bank of more than 100 specimens.

To move into the gated Laguna Woods Village, a tidy array of bungalows and condominiums that blends easily into southern Orange County, people must meet several requirements, one of which is that they do not need full-time care. Their minds are sharp when they arrive, whether they are 65 or 95. They begin a new life here. Make new friends. Perhaps connect with new romantic partners. Try new activities, at one of the community’s fitness centres; or new hobbies, in the more than 400 residents’ clubs. They are as busy as arriving freshmen at a new campus, with one large difference: they are less interested in the future, or in the past. “*We live for the day,*” said Dr. Leon Manheimer, a long-time resident who is in his 90s. Yet it is precisely that ability to form new memories of the day that usually goes first in dementia cases, studies in Laguna Woods and elsewhere have found. The very old who live among their peers know this intimately, and have developed their own expertise, their own laboratory. They diagnose each other, based on careful observation. And they have learned to distinguish among different kinds of memory loss, which are manageable and which ominous. Here at Laguna Woods, many residents make such delicate calculations in one place: the bridge table. Contract bridge requires a strong memory. It involves four players, paired off, and each player must read his or her partner’s strategy by following closely what is played. Good players remember every card played and its significance. Forget a card, or fall behind, and it can cost you and your partner and the social connection dearly. “*When a partner starts to slip, you*

can't trust them," said Julie Davis, 89, a regular player living in Laguna Woods. "That's what it comes down to. It's terrible to say it that way, and worse to watch it happen. But other players get very annoyed. You can't help yourself." At the Friday afternoon bridge game, Ms. Cummins and Ms. Scott sit with two other players, both women in their 90s. Gossip flows freely between hands, about residents whose talk is bigger than their game, about a 100-year-old man who collapsed and died that week in an exercise class. But the women are all business during play. "What was that you played, a spade was it?" a partner asks Ms. Cummins. "Yes, a spade," says Ms. Cummins, with some irritation. "It was a spade." Later, the partner stares uncertainly at the cards on the table. "We played that trick already," Ms. Cummins says. "You're a trick behind."

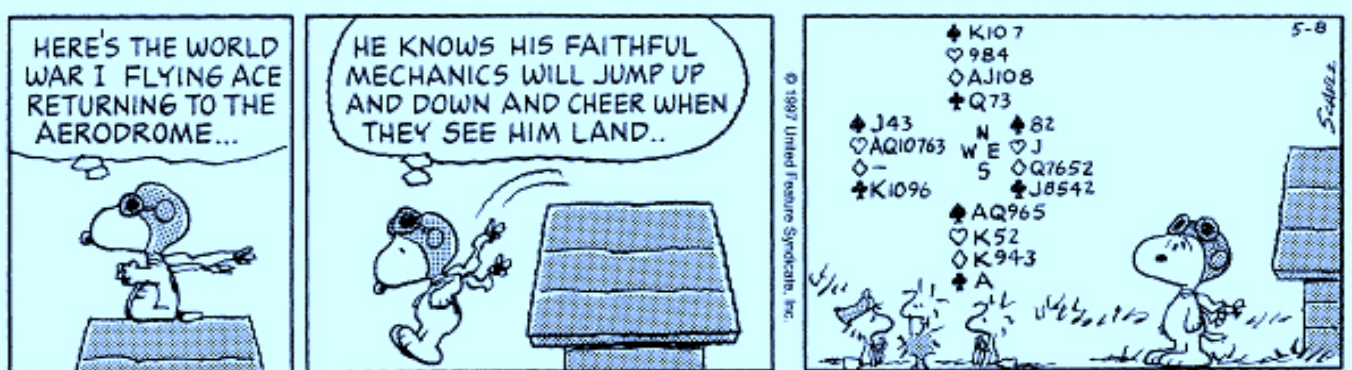


Most regular players at Laguna Woods know of at least one player who, embarrassed by lapses, bowed out of the regular game. "A friend of mine, a very good player, when she thought she couldn't keep up, she automatically dropped out," Ms. Cummins said. "That's usually what happens." Yet it is part of the tragedy of dementia that, in many cases, the condition quickly robs people of self-awareness. They will not voluntarily abandon the one thing that, perhaps more than any other, defines their daily existence. "And then it's really tough," Ms. Davis said. "I mean, what do you do? These are your friends."

So far, scientists here have found little evidence that diet or exercise affects the risk of dementia in people over 90. But some researchers argue that mental engagement, doing crossword puzzles, reading books, may delay the arrival of symptoms. And social connections, including interaction with friends, may be vital, some suspect. In isolation, a healthy human mind can go blank and quickly become disoriented, psychologists have found.

## "THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE"

by Charles M. Schulz



### About the Author.

Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000), American, was a very keen bridge player and as the creator of "Peanuts" and its many off shoots, was the most influential cartoonist of his era.



Charles Schultz

# THE BRIDGE LOUNGE



## “GOOD DETECTIVE WORK” by Jeff Sapire

Good declarer play sometimes requires some good detective work. Watch east in action here.

Dlr. N Vul. None	♠ Q65 ♥ 75 ♦ A87543 ♣ 65	
♠ KJ9742 ♥ AJ32 ♦ J ♣ Q4		♠ AT3 ♥ KQT64 ♦ Q ♣ AKT8
	♠ 8 ♥ 98 ♦ KT962 ♣ J9732	

Looking at the East/West hands, one can see that this is an excellent slam. 6♥ by East is cold on any lead but a diamond, with a chance to make an overtrick on a spade guess. If South does find the best lead there's still a good chance to pick up the spade suit for no losers; normal play is ace and then small, intending to put up the king, playing for the drop ('8 ever, 9 never'). Sadly, it would fail on the above layout.

In a Teams' match, at Table 1, West decided to introduce the spade suit first, and wound up in 6♠. It was easy for North to lead the ace of diamonds and then sit back, hoping to make the trump queen, which he did. Declarer had no reason to take the anti-percentage winning line of playing a spade to the ten.

At Table 2, East finished up in 6♥, after North passed as dealer, which becomes very significant later. South did find the diamond

lead, which North took with the Ace, to switch to a club. Declarer won the return, drew two rounds of trumps, but then decided to find out some more about the opponents' distribution before tackling the critical spade suit. He cashed two more high clubs and discovered that North had originally started with two hearts and two clubs. The clue to North's possible diamond length was in the bidding, or rather the lack of it. With seven diamonds he would very likely have opened 3D, so there was a strong likelihood he had six at most. In that case, with two known hearts and two known clubs, he had to have at least 3 cards in spades. So declarer played a spade to the king and then finessed the ten on the way back. QED!

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.



Jeff Sapire



## OVERHEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

Lady sitting North says to new arrival at the table: "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other replied "Yes I am. I married the wrongman."



# MAJOR SUIT RAISES

by Sven-Åke Bjerregaard

(This article first appeared in the excellent WCBU Bulletin about a year ago and is reproduced here in an edited format with the kind permission of the author and the publisher.)

If your partner opens one of a major and you have 3+ card support, I recommend you show support immediately. If you have an agreed trump suit it's a matter of how high you want to go; that's more important than giving information about side suits.

I normally use these raises (where M is a major suit):

- 1M - 2M      5-10 points, 3-card support.
- 1M - 3M      4-7 points with 4-card support; should be alerted as preemptive.
- 1M - 3C      8-11 points "Bergen raise", 4-card support, says nothing about clubs  
Opener can bid 3D asking for maximum raise.

1M - 3D      11-12 points "Bergen raise" 3-card support, says nothing about diamonds.

1M - 3S, 4C, 4D, 4H = Void in bid suit, (Modified Splinter) 10+ points, 4-card support

And now, "Svencoby"!

1M - 2 NT      at least 3 card support game force.

1M - 2NT      followed by

3C      = Minimum, about 11-13 points

3D      = Extras no shortage, 14+ points

3H      = Extras, short in clubs

3S      =Extras, short in diamonds

3NT      =Extras, short in other Major.

4C, 4D =Void in the bid suit (Reverse Splinter)

4H      =Void in other Major

If you have a hand with slam interest and a suit with only spot cards, you ask for a singleton; if

you have a hand with a singleton and ruffing values, normally 4 card support, you show your singleton. If they interfere, I use 2NT as at least invitational. The 3M bid if OP shows a minimum is then non-forcing. I also use this if partner opens a weak 2M. If they overcall after 2 NT, I use pass to deny a singleton in overcalled suit; a bid shows singleton in overcalled suit.

If opener showed a minimum hand and you can see no chance of slam, just bid game. You reveal nothing to your opponents! If you still are interested in slam even if opener has a minimum, you proceed like this:

- 1M    2NT
- 3C    3D      Asking for singleton
- 3M    Asking for cuebid
- New suit Showing own singleton
- 3 NT    Suggestion to play, 13-15 balanced

Dir. N	♠ J976	
Vul. NS	♥ AKT9	
	♦ 5	
	♣ K976	
♠ A852		♠ K4
♥ 52		♥ Q873
♦ AJT96		♦ KQ832
♣ J8		♣ T5
	♠ QT3	
	♥ J64	
	♦ 74	
	♣ AO432	

Here's an example of a winning play by Sven-Åke in a top-level Championship event. He was sitting South, partnering Tommy Gulberg.

West	North	East	South
	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	P	4♣ <sup>2</sup>
P	P	P	

<sup>a</sup> three-suiter with a shortage in diamonds

<sup>2</sup> invitation to game

West led the ♦A and switched, correctly, to a heart. Sven-Åke won in dummy and drew trumps in two rounds. He continued with the ♠J from dummy. East covered the Jack with King, and it was all over. Dummy's hearts were protected and Sven-Åke established dummy's spades for a heart discard. Had East ducked the ♠J, West would

have won with Ace and returned a heart for one down!

# CUE-BID RAISES

researched and edited by Stephen Rosenberg

Most of us have rather good methods to show support for the suit partner opens, particularly if it is a Major. With 6-10 points and good trumps we raise to the 2-level, with 11-12 perhaps we use a single jump limit raise, and with a game-forcing support hand perhaps Jacoby 2NT convention or some similar method.

But those smooth approaches get roughed up when an opponent overcalls the opening bid. The response becomes less clear because now you have to factor in whether a raise is "real" or is just an attempt to compete for the contract - to pre-empt the level a bit. Add in the extra fact that methods like Jacoby 2NT are off after an opponent's overcall and the problem gets a little bigger.

One small addition to your bidding methods will help a lot and cost nothing! An immediate cue-bid of the overcalled suit shows a limit raise or better in your partner's suit. It tells partner you have at least 11 points and at least 3 (probably 4) trumps. For example:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	
	1♥	1♠	2♠	with ♠ K5 ♥ QJ86 ♦ AJ73 ♣ 962

With 11 points and 4 trumps you would have jumped to 3♥ without the overcall. Instead you give partner the good news with a cue-bid of 2♠. You may be thinking "So what? I could have still jumped to 3♥ even after the overcall so this hasn't helped me at all." Maybe so, but here's where the help comes in:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	
	1♥	1♠	3♥	with ♠ 65 ♥ QT86 ♦ AJ73 ♣ 962

Without the overcall you would have responded 2♥. Now you can jump to 3♥ as a pre-emptive move. Even with the jump partner will not overestimate your hand because he knows you don't have as many as 11 points. How does he know? Because you didn't make a cue-bid raise!

The bid works just as well when the other side opens and partner overcalls. For example:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	
1♣	1♠	P	2♠	with ♠ AJ65 ♥ 986 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ 62

Partner might have as many as 16 points so it is important to let him know about both your trump support and strength.

Support cue-bids can also be used when partner bids a minor suit, but of course you need to have more trumps. Since he may have opened a 3-card suit you should have at least 5-card support to cue-bid. For example:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	
	1♣	1♥	2♥	with ♠ 93 ♥ 74 ♦ AKJ3 ♣ AJ862

There is no upper limit to your strength. Since the cue-bid is 100% forcing you don't have to worry about jumping since partner will bid again even with a weak hand.

Now, let's assume you are forced to bid again, and the trump suit has been agreed. So all you have to do is describe the strength of your hand and let partner decide where to stop. You should assume that partner has just the minimum 11 points. For example:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner	
	1♥	1♠	2♠	
P	3♥			with ♠ 93 ♥ A9874 ♦ A86 ♣ A54.

You can count on partner for at least 11 points. With your minimum hand you just return to hearts and leave any further action to him.

And one last example:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner	
	1♥	1♠	2♠	
P	4♥			with ♠ 93 ♥ AJT74 ♦ A8 ♣ A654.

You can count on partner for at least 11 points. You want to be in game, so you bid it.

If it looks like Cue Bid Raises could be a useful addition to your bidding armoury, ask your teacher or an expert friend for more about them.

I am fortunate to have been loaned ten or so of the original "The Bridge Bulletin" published some 40 years' ago, by the SABF, sold for 30c each, and carrying advertising for South African Airways, J & B Whisky and Ransom Select (remember those?) among others. Here's an extract from an article by Alan Simmonds from edition number 5-8, dated June-September 1978, and entitled

# OLYMPIAD 1978

Dir. S	♠ QT63	
Vul. NS	♥ K7	
	♦ AQ5	
	♣ AK76	
♠ 8		♠ KJ5
♥ QJ942		♥ T65
♦ J74		♦ T863
♣ T943		♣ J52
	♠ A9742	
	♥ A83	
	♦ K92	
	♣ Q8	

This hand comes from the semi-finals of the world pairs and displays the correct tactics to use when you know you are in an inferior contract. Neville Eber, South, opened 1NT and Hymie Butkow, North, bid 2♦, forcing Stayman. When the response was 2♠, Butkow thought for some time, but decided that on a maximum of 32 points, his spade support was not good enough for slam. Eber took stock. He realised that a very few players in the field play a weak no-trump, and even less play it when vulnerable; probably the whole field would be in a slam after opening 1♠ on his hand. The best



Neville Eber

percentage play with four missing trumps is to lay down the Ace, and then play small to the Queen, and that's how most declarers in a slam would play the hand. Eber decided to play against the odds, and he played a small spade from dummy to his nine. When this held, he made 12 tricks by next laying down the Ace.

Hymie Osie and I played the same hand against Besse and Bernasconi of Switzerland. When a heart was led and dummy came down, Besse sat straight up in his seat! Osie played the hand in the same way as Eber had played it, for he realised why Besse had looked at the dummy and had sat bolt upright – only the ♠KJ were missing! When Osie played a spade to the nine, Besse muttered something

too horrible to contemplate, but to no avail! In the Ladies' Pairs, Bertha Cohen and Rita Jacobson made the cut and then played below their best in the final to



Rita Jacobson and Bertha Cohen

finish well down the list. They were really up

Dir. S	♠ 5	
Vul. NS	♥ Q4	
	♦ KQJ8752	
	♣ AJ4	
♠ AKT432		♠ J976
♥ 72		♥ KT865
♦ T4		♦ ---
♣ T96		♣ K853
	♠ Q8	
	♥ AJ93	
	♦ A963	
	♣ Q72	

against it in this hand, sitting EW. South opened 1♦ and after some vigorous bidding, NS in diamonds and EW in spades, South landed the contract in 6♦. The ♠K was led, followed by the ♣T to the ♣A in dummy. Two rounds of trumps were drawn and then the ♠Q ruffed in dummy. Then came the ♥Q covered by the King and Ace. The ♥J was then cashed, and a squeeze applied by playing more trumps, leaving the position on the left. The ♥4 was played from dummy to the nine, successfully finessing the ten, and South's ♥J-3 took the last two tricks, a slam bid and made and the result an all-time top for their opponents.

	♠ ---	
	♥ 4	
	♦ ---	
	♣ J4	
♠ 4		♠ ---
♥ ---		♥ T8
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ 9		♣ K
	♠ ---	
	♥ AJ93	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	



# THE BRIDGE OF LIFE, 8.

by Sarita Mathur (26th March 2018)

Bridge is a game of cards which mimics Life as well. Is that true? Or does Life mimic bridge?

It's hard to tell. Maybe both complement each other.

For in bridge as in Life your endeavour is to do well.

Partnerships matter, they're special and each one is different. That one can tell.

Who brings out the best in you? With whom you do not do well?

Other people are also in your Life. In duplicate bridge it is the same.

Some are fair and stick to the rules, while others do not care.

Some are bullies and some pretend to be true, some are rude and ill-mannered.

However, that definitely shouldn't affect you. You have to be true to yourself in bridge as in Life.

You do not always have the choice of the cards Life deals to you.

However, the fact is, and the facts are always true, your behaviour and your thoughts rest entirely with you.

So if Life and bridge upset you, the problem lies within you.

Bridge is a hand of cards as it is of Life as well. Each card and each game has a story to tell.

Love your Life and enjoy bridge as well, navigating the pitfalls one can stand tall with a smile on the face

As Life is not a race. Everyone has a say, play fair and enjoy bridge.

It is Life's way.



Sarita Mathur

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 a 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.*"



## THE SQUEEZE IS ON

by Richard Pavlicek

You are sitting South in a high-level Pairs' event. Your hand looks like this:

♠AKQJ...♥93...♦A42...♣Q754. With the opponents silent throughout, you and your partner bid to 6NT like this: 1NT-2♦ (Jacoby); 2♥-3♣; 3♠-6NT!

West leads the ♠T and dummy reveals itself:

♠62...♥AKT54...♦KJ...♣AK32. You play the ♠2 from dummy and East

follows with the ♠3. Take your Ace. What do you do next?

1. Play ♠K-Q-J? 2. Lead the ♥3 to the Ten? 3. Lead the ♦2 to the Jack? 4. Take your ♣Q-K-A?

Have a go at it yourself and then compare with Richard's Results on page 10.

About the Author.

*Richard Pavlicek* (born 1945) is an American bridge player, teacher, and writer from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, United States. 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 masterpoints. He is a Grand Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and World International Master of the World Bridge Federation (WBF). 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. Pavlicek has written numerous bridge textbooks and lesson materials

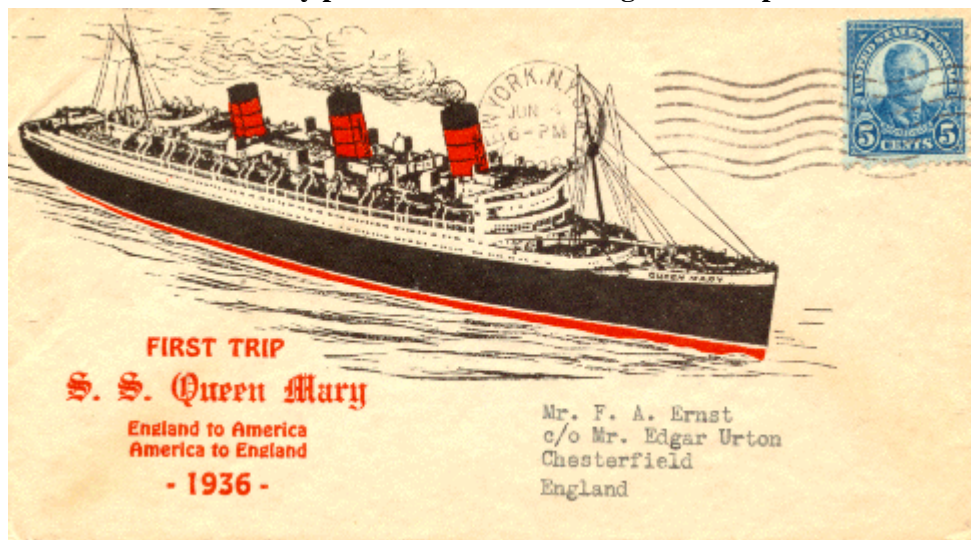


Richard Pavlicek

# THE FIRST BRIDGE CRUISE

by John Swanson

In the late 1920s the Cunard Lines was rapidly losing trans-Atlantic business to competitors. Their fleet of pre-World War I vessels was outclassed by modern ships. Company strategists decided to build two super liners, eventually launched as the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth. After two years of trials and outfitting, the Queen Mary commenced her maiden voyage from Southampton on May 27, 1936. It was virtually impossible to get accommodations in any class for the first few crossings. But by late 1938 the unstable European political situation resulted in many potential tourists looking for other ports of call.



Ely Culbertson, whose flamboyant promotional schemes had raised the popularity of contract bridge to record heights, was a veteran trans-Atlantic passenger. He had made four trips to Europe for international matches, thrice defeating teams from Great Britain and then losing a match to Austria in 1937. Cunard officials knew of the popularity of bridge; they had also seen what a welcome diversion it was aboard ship, especially when experts were part of the game. Thus they decided to entice additional passengers by offering bridge instruction and play.

Naturally, they thought of Culbertson first. But he was too busy enjoying the fruits of his success and fighting off that newcomer, Charles Goren. Attempts to sign other leading experts also met with rejection. Eventually they were forced to settle on an accredited Culbertson bridge teacher and club owner, Ms. Ethyl Whitecross of Commack, Long Island. Her previous claim to fame was that she had doubled Mrs Josephine Culbertson in a 2♠ contract at an Asbury Park tournament and defeated her 500 points. Despite an aggressive advertising campaign, including half page display ads in both *The Bridge World* and the official organ of the ACBL, published in those days as *The Bulletin of the American Contract Bridge League*, the response was disappointing. Only ten additional passengers could definitely be attributed to the enticement of bridge play. There were others who took part, but most of the duplicate sessions consisted of three tables.

The games proceeded smoothly for the first couple of days, but the Queen Mary met up with the fringe of a North Atlantic storm the third day out. Not only was it impossible to keep the cards from sliding off the tables as the

ship rolled side to side, the tables and chairs were also moving about. A seasick Ms. Whitecross desperately tried to carry on, but the games ended abruptly when she regurgitated on a declarer involved in a tricky 3NT contract. The bridge activities were resumed on the return trip. Despite Ms. Whitecross's renewed efforts there were rarely sufficient players to organize a team game. Usually a five or six-handed rubber bridge game was all that could be mustered. Cunard did not attempt another organized bridge activity for almost 20 years. When playing at the next Queen Mary Regional, if the air conditioning is not working perfectly or a creak from the bowels of the ship distracts you for a moment, think of the trials and tribulations of Ms. Whitecross almost 60 years ago. Bon Voyage.



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.

# RICHARD'S RESULTS



You have 11 top tricks and lots of chances, but it takes a proper squeeze technique to guarantee a 12<sup>th</sup> trick against any distribution!

Lead the ♥3 and finesse the Ten, which loses, and a spade is returned – it actually doesn't matter what is returned! Cash the ♣A-K and suppose East shows out. The play is similar if West is the one to show out. Next cash the ♥A-K and if East follows, pitch a *club*. Either hearts will split or you will

have a double squeeze – win the ♣Q, play your spades. If East instead shows out on the third heart, pitch a *diamond*, then West will later be squeezed in hearts and clubs.

This was West's hand: ♠T98 ♥J8 ♦T873 ♣J986.

That was fun!

# IT'S YOUR CALL

edited by Stephen Rosenberg

With acknowledgements to the ACBL's *BridgeFeed*.

Challenge yourself with this week's *It's Your Call: Retro Edition*, pulled from the *Bridge Bulletin* archives. You are the dealer, sitting South, you hold ♠J652 ♥KQJT872 ♦A ♣K with neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
P	1♠	2♦	?

What's your next bid and why? [Read the expert's opinions on Page 11.](#)

# OUT OF HAND

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 collection of cartoons "*Out of Hand*" have appeared in many bridge publications and have been collected into a book.



"Do you take trade-ins?"

# IT'S YOUR CALL: THE EXPERTS' OPINIONS

edited by Stephen Rosenberg

Remember, you are the dealer, sitting South, you hold ♠J652 ♥KQJT872 ♦A ♣K with neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
P	1♠	2♦	?

What's your next bid and why?

The experts named 4♥ top bid, the majority preferring to play in the excellent heart suit. North's 1♠ bid improves South's hand, so 11 experts bid a direct 4♥. What were their reasons?



Barry Rigal

*Larry Cohen:* "Surely this will handle better with hearts as trumps. Because I have a play opposite ♠K T 9 3 and out, I think I am worth jumping to game."

*Kay and Randy Joyce:* "Seven-card suits with one hundred honours deserve to be trumps. Partner's spade bid improves our chances."

*Barry Rigal:* "It's hard to imagine this won't play as well in hearts as in spades."

*Steve Robinson:* "I see no reason to play spades. To make a spade slam, partner needs a lot. I don't want to bid less than 4♥ and allow the opponents a better chance to find a fit, if they have one."

*Linda and Robb Gordon:* "The spade suit is an illusion. Playing this deal in spades might end horribly if partner has only a four-card suit."

*Jill Meyers:* "I could play 4♥ opposite a void."

*Allan Falk:* "I'm a bigger fan than most of raising partner's suit, but a spade contract could be problematic. Also, a 4♥ bid does not disclose the spade fit — a tactical consideration."

*Mike Lawrence:* "I'm content to emphasize hearts and give up on spades. If partner has ♠A T 8 3 and out, I have a play for 4♥."

*Peggy and John Sutherland:* "As little as ♠K Q 7 4 from partner will be enough to make game. If we are lucky, our 4♥ bid will shut out West and end the auction."

*August Boehm:* "This hand is more about hearts than spades. With 4♥, I'm trying to shut out the diamonds."



Jill Meyers

Four experts rebid 3♥.



Mel Colchamiro

"This is a suit that has to be bid again," said *Karen Walker*. "My hearts could be worthless in a spade contract."

*Mel Colchamiro* echoed 3♥. "It's hard to imagine spades playing better than hearts, even opposite a void. My second choice is 4♥."

"Hearts must be trumps because of the quality of the suit," said *Don Stack*. "The only question becomes how many do I bid. I opt for 3♥ to show the playing strength. Partner's 1♠ bid is a tremendous plus to my hand. Let's put it this way: partner's spades are more valuable in a heart contract than the hearts would be in a spade contract."

*Kitty and Steve Cooper* cuebid. 3♦. "Let's make a forcing noise to find out more and put us in a forcing pass situation later on," they say. "We wish to be in game — perhaps 4♥ or perhaps 4♠."

*Kerri Sanborn* took an interesting position. "Double," she said. "How about a support double, then a jump to 4♥? It isn't clear which suit we should be paying in, so this could determine how good our spade fit is."

*(Just like real life! Experts never all agree and they all have such good reasons for their individual opinions!! Ed.)*

# IN THE BEGINNING

by David Bird

The first David Bird story featuring the monks of St Titus appeared in Bridge Magazine in June 1978, and here it is, reproduced in 2020!



The Abbot

The Reverend Richard Hyde unlatched the oak front door, and in from howling gale came Abbot Yorke-Smith, looking even more red-faced than usual. ‘Come and warm yourself by the fire, Abbot; Father O’Neill is here already. Who did you manage to get for a fourth tonight?’ ‘Well, it wasn’t easy to find anyone on choir practice night, but eventually I persuaded Brother Anthony to play again.’ ‘Oh! Er...good,’ replied Rev Hyde unconvincingly.

Brother Anthony was a rather unpopular partner since, being a member of the Eustacian order, he had to obey their vow of total silence, and this naturally restricted his accuracy in the bidding. Only the previous week the Abbot had had to reprimand a young novice who had feigned a sudden sever cramp in the leg and hobbled off towards the infirmary when he had cut brother Anthony at the monastery £1-a-hundred table.

The first hand of the evening was boldly bid by the Rev Hyde.

It was standard tactics to open light in front of Brother Anthony’s partner in order to disrupt even further communications which were already almost non-existent, but Rev Hyde clearly regarded his solid holdings as adequate for the Eustacian gambling 3NT convention.

Father O’Neill’s queen of hearts was covered by the king and ace, and the Abbot’s club switch was won in the dummy. When Rev Hyde played off four rounds of spades the Abbot, shifting uncomfortably in his cassock, discarded two clubs and two hearts and was subsequently thrown in to concede a trick to dummy’s ten of hearts.

‘Sorry, Patrick, I should have tried baring my knave of hearts,’ said the abbot, reluctantly writing down the score.



Rev. Hyde

## About the Author.

David Lyster Bird, (born 29 March 1946), is a British bridge writer with more than 130 bridge books to his name. He was born in London and is bridge correspondent for the *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*. He contributes regularly to many magazines, including *Bridge Plus*, *English Bridge*, *Bridge Magazine* and the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*. He has been a co-author of books with some of the world’s leading players or writers, including Terence Reese, Ron Klinger, Geir Helgemo, Tony Forrester, Omar Sharif, Martin Hoffman and Barbara Seagram. His series of humorous bridge stories featuring the monks of the St Titus monastery has run continuously in *Bridge Magazine* for 30 years; many of them have subsequently been collected in book form.



Dlr: W		♠ QJ543	
Vul: None		♥ KT6	
		♦ K72	
		♣ A7	
♠ T9762		♠ ---	
♥ Q9		♥ AJ853	
♦ Q98		♦ J5	
♣ J4		♣ QT9652	
		♠ AK8	
		♥ 742	
		♦ A643	
		♣ K83	
West Fr. O’Neill	North Br. Anthony	East The Abbot	South Rev. Hyde
P	P	1♥	3NT
P	P	P	

# AGGRESSION RULES, OK?

from The Free Lance-Star, 17 August 1992

Dir. E Vul. N/S	♠ T8752 ♥ A932 ♦ K9 ♣ AT	
♠ A3 ♥ 75 ♦ AQJT82 ♣ Q86		♠ Q94 ♥ KJ4 ♦ 7653 ♣ 743
	♠ KJ6 ♥ QT86 ♦ 4 ♣ KJ962	

This deal from the United States-Great Britain match of the 1991 World Team Championship brought together two pairs noted for their aggressive bidding systems. North-South were Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth of the United States, pitted against Britain's Tony Forrester and Andy Robson. Both pairs lived up to their advance billing as the auction unfolded.



Jeff Meckstroth & Eric Rodwell

Robson began by opening an off-shape 1NT (12-14 points in the partnership style). When this rolled around to Meckstroth, he bid 2♣ for takeout. Robson then showed his true colours by leaping to three diamonds. This did not silence Rodwell, who cue-bid diamonds to ask his partner to choose a major suit and Meckstroth's four heart bid ended the auction.



Andrew Robson

Robson led the ace and another

diamond, declarer discarding a spade on the king. Meckstroth was then confronted by the problem of how to tackle the trump suit. With little knowledge of the location of the missing honour cards, Meckstroth decided to delay playing trumps until he could learn a little more about the opponent's holding in the other suits. So at trick three he led a spade to the

jack and was gratified to see this force the ace.

Declarer won West's spade return with the king and reviewed what he had learned up to this point- West had to have six diamonds for his three diamond bid, so he could not hold more than three clubs (more than three clubs would give him a singleton, not consistent with his original NT opening bid). So Meckstroth next played the ♣A-K and another club, ruffing the third round in dummy without fear of being over-ruffed by East.

Declarer was now ready to tackle the trump suit. Since West had already shown up with the ace of spades, ♣Q and a strong diamond suit headed by the ace, he could not hold the heart king. So Meckstroth, played the ♥A and another heart, and when East produced the ♥K, the game was home.

*(Editor's note: for those of you not familiar with Meckstroth, he may just be the greatest bridge-player of all time, having been voted Player of the Decade in the 1990s, 2000s and 2010s! He was born May 15, 1956, and is an American professional player. He is a multiple world champion, winning the Bermuda Bowl with USA teams five times. He is one of only ten players who have won the so-called triple crown of bridge: the Bermuda Bowl, the World Open Pairs and the World Team Olympiad.)*



Tony Forrester

# THE TOP LADIES

## LYNN DEAS



*Lynn Davis Deas* (June 16, 1952 - May 10, 2020) was a professional American bridge player. At the time of her death, she was second in the WBF All-Time Women Ranking by Placement Points, which do not decay over time.

Deas was a native of Newport News, Virginia, where she was a student at Eastern Virginia Medical School when she suffered a bad automobile accident in 1980. Already an avid bridge player, she played "all the time" when broken bones and blurry vision forced her to take one-year leave from school, and subsequently decided to drop out in favour of the card game as a career.

At one time Deas ranked first among Women World Grand Masters. At one time she was on the road as a professional player for 30 weeks a year. She was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in 1997 and reduced her travel.

At the inaugural Sport Accord World Mind Games in Beijing, December 2011, Deas and Beth Palmer won the Women's Pairs gold medal. Not a world championship meet, the Sport Accord Games invited 24 women from Great Britain, France, China,

and the U.S. to compete in three small tournaments as four national teams, twelve pairs, and 24 individuals. The six U.S. women also won the Teams gold medal.

# FAREWELL TO PETER AND STEVE

by Stephen Rosenberg

It is always sad to say "Farewell" especially to people who were such an integral part of bridge in South Africa. But "Farewell" it is to Peter Bircher and Steve Bunker.

Peter was almost a fixture down on the KZN South Coast, running his Margate Bridge Club with consummate professionalism, and always making his TD and scoring skills available to his colleagues. As Steve Tearnan wrote from Durban "*Peter Bircher definitely needs mentioning. I am the TD and scorer for most of the Durban clubs and Peter was always willing to help when I needed help. He designed all sorts of programs in excel to make scoring and doing master points allocations easier and grading easier. If life ever gets back to normal for bridge, then I guess that I am going to miss him the most.*" Peter and his lovely wife Marcelline were very welcome, regular participants in our national Congresses, Peter as the ultimate scorer and Marcelline lending her talents to the daily Bulletins. They will definitely be missed, and may their new home in France be kind to them.



*Peter Bircher*



*Steve Bunker*

Steve Bunker has returned to his native England, having recently completed two years as President of the Western Cape Bridge Union. He took up the challenge when the formidable Tim Cope stepped down after 21 years at the helm; a measure of the man is his statement that "*Despite having the smaller feet, I will do my best to fill Tim's shoes!*" which he did most admirably. He made a large and discernible difference to the Union with his "firm but fair" management style and introduced the quarterly newsletter under his stewardship; the highly successful 2019 Congress held in Cape Town also took place during his Presidency. In the words of Tim Cope: "*my sincere thanks to Steve Bunker for his Trojan effort in the chair over the last two years. He has effected some great improvements for the benefit of all bridge players across the Cape, and I applaud him for his selfless work.*"

# 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!

David Beinart	Regional Master	Western Cape Bridge Club
Marion Brivik	Regional Master	Bridge@Orchards
Gail Davies	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies
Sue Epstein	Regional Master	Friday Morning Bridge
Colleen Frost	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies
Louise Geldenhuys	Regional Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Joel Harris	Regional Master	The Links Bridge Club
Gail Hochreiter	Regional Master	Bridge@Orchards
Duncan Keet	National Master	Western Cape Bridge Club
Melanie Kempe	Regional Master	Northerns Bridge Club
Les Lazarus	Regional Master	Honorary Members Club
Lyndsay Legg	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies
Janine Masojada	Regional Master	KZN Bridge Club
Petro Mennen	Regional Master	WAFT
Moragh Paxton	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies
Cindy Polakow	Regional Master	Helen's Tuesday Club
Yvonne Rimer	Regional Master	Benoni Bridge Club
Lotte Sorensen	Premier Life Master	ABC
Carol Stanton	Life Master	The Links Bridge Club
Helga Streicher	Regional Master	OFSBU System Club
Lynne Thirsk	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies
Colin van Rensburg	Regional Master	Mist Belt Bridge Club
Sue Wallett	Regional Master	SAWBA Ladies

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

## THE LAST LAUGH

Bridge players talk bridge to anyone and everyone, including the barman at the Rivoli Bar in the London Ritz!

*“ .....and that dumb Maisie Parker must have known that I had the Ace, King and Queen of spades, but no, she just has to go on bidding hearts .....”*

