



## The President's Address

We held our Trials earlier this year so let me begin by congratulating the winning teams

---

### Open

Hennie Fick (captain) & Neville Eber  
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower  
Bernard Donde & Robert Stephens

---

### Ladies

Roz Bernstein (captain) & Sharon Lang  
Vanessa Armstrong & Carol Stanton  
Nicky Bateman & Tas Nestoridis (invited 3rd pair)

---

### Seniors

James Grant (captain) & Larry Chemaly  
Michael Alexander & Maureen Narunsky  
Diniar Minwalla & Brian Pincus (invited 3rd pair)

---

### Mixed

Lex van Vught (captain) & Joy Rothenberg  
Craig Gower & Rita Gawron  
Tim Cope & Janine Masojada

---

Whether or not we should hold Mixed Teams Trials has been a topic for discussion by the SABF committee for more years than I care to recall. The major objections apart from the cost have been that we have very few established mixed pairs, mixed pairs events are poorly attended, and should we hold trials in this category we risk having only

1. President's Address

2. Teaching Initiatives

7. High Level Value Doubles (v1)

9. A Careful Play

10. Errol Pieters

3. Live Pairs Event Gauteng

12. Christmas Cracker Riddles

14. Mampoer Tips

16. Hermanus Pairs Tournament

16. Ranking achievements

one or two teams enter. On a more positive note we know that mixed teams events have been gaining in popularity overseas. In the end it seemed the most logical way to end this continuing debate was to open Trials for this category on a purely experimental basis and see what happened. To get a truer picture of the interest out there and to encourage as many entrants as possible we adopted the WBF rules for Zonals which allowed players already qualified in the Open or Ladies events to enter. Ostensibly this rule was introduced to allow NBOs to enter their top players in two of the categories so that they had two bites of the cherry as it were to qualify.

Again so as not to discourage weaker teams entering we added the proviso that should a team with one or more players already qualified win the tournament then that team would proceed to the Zonals but no further. Should they qualify at the Zonals the highest ranking team with players not already qualified in one of the other categories would proceed to represent us in the Wuhan Cup.

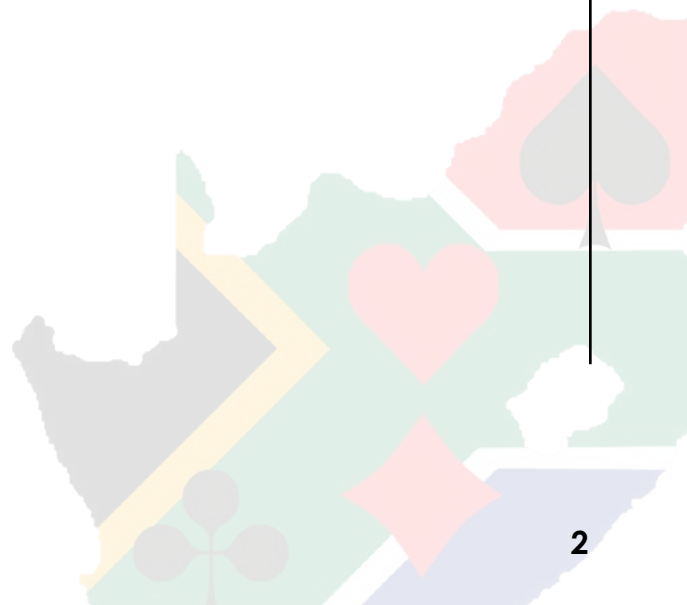
This proved to be the case so the team that will hopefully be representing us in Marrakech in this category will be

Michele Alexander (captain) & Glen Holman

Merle Modlin & Peter Ward

3rd pair to be announced

No one imagined the enthusiastic response there would be to Mixed Teams and so we can look forward to this being a regular feature in future Trials.



In our last edition we featured an article about Kitty Phillips and the excellent work she is doing in teaching children bridge in KwaZulu-Natal but a number of other teaching initiatives have sprung up around the country with the emphasis on bringing new players back to the clubs so here is a quick roundup.

### From Kitty Cruise in Cape Town

We hold a beginner's section at Keurboom Bridge Club running concurrently with our morning duplicate bridge. Learners are welcome to arrive on their own and get paired up with one another. One of our members, Helen Vrettos, is available to play or to supervise. This initiative is the brainchild of Neil Hayward, our tournament director, who is always available for advice. We are using bidding boxes and bridge mates to familiarise the learners with what duplicate bridge will entail. We are playing up to 6 tables at present, but the word is getting out and we are expecting this number to grow



## The Links Supervised Bridge – April 2023

It's been 6 months since the introduction of the supervised sessions on Thursday mornings at The Links. This 2 hour session has proved extremely popular, with the attendance quickly growing to over 10 tables on a weekly basis.

A mixture of players form tables at the start of each session, with anywhere between 5-12 boards being played and supervised through the 2 hours. As there is a limit on the number of supervisors we can source each week, anywhere from 3-6 top players spread themselves around all the tables, and give input at the end of each hand played.

Little titbits like bidding suggestions, optimal leads, card play & defence techniques give the players an opportunity to learn something every time they pick up a hand.

Generally, all levels are welcome and encouraged to give this a try, and we especially appeal to players who are new to competitive bridge, to pay us a visit and experience what it's like to play face-to-face at The Links.

Individuals as well as partnerships or full tables of 4 are all welcome. The cost of R50 includes a cup of coffee/tea, and based on the feedback we've received, it's the best value for money you can buy in JHB 😊



A big thank you and appreciation goes out to Neville Eber and his team of supervisors, including Bernard Donde, Val Bloom, Lotte Sorensen, Di Balkin, Tas Nestoridis, Nicola Bateman, Peta Balderson & Rob Stephens. This service to the players wouldn't be possible without all of you contributing.

## **PECBC (PE Contract Bridge Club) Beginner Bridge Lessons Update**

When the PECBC was opened in March 2022, we were faced with several post pandemic issues such as maintaining and upgrading the Club building and premises, and a compromised membership. On advice and support from James Grant and the SABF and Arie Ridderhof (Sunshine Coast Bridge Club), the initiative of growing the game of bridge through Beginner Bridge Lessons was launched.

We are delighted to report that the Beginner Bridge Lessons are steaming ahead at the PECBC. To date, we have 22 players taking lessons at the Club which are facilitated by Des Duckitt, a seasoned and experienced teacher, and organised and managed by Alison Puggia.

The project not only focuses on the teaching of bridge, but also on integrating the players into Club activities and competitions. As such learners, past and present, are encouraged to join in supervised practice sessions on a Tuesday afternoon.

Included below are pictures taken from lesson sessions.



*Tuesday afternoon learners.*



*Tuesday afternoon learners.*



*Friday morning learners-lots of fun and laughter*




*Tuesday afternoon practice group*



**Valentine's Day - learners and practice group**

### **Comments by players:**

*It's been a super rewarding experience and we are very grateful that the club put this initiative forward. It's been a great environment to learn the game of bridge, very friendly and supportive. We like that the club members are so encouraging and keen to help us newbies fit in. Our instructor, Des, is a pillar of patience, calm teaching methods and quiet humour. Always teaching with some fun thrown in. We trust his knowledge and frankly will follow him no matter what! Thanks to you (Alison) and Sally and Des, actually the whole bridge club for creating this student program and I hope it grows bigger and bigger every year! And younger!*

 *We look forward to many more hours with Des and eventually to play in club tournaments! (Ria Todd)*

*Really enjoyed my time at bridge with Des and the special girls. It really helps that the lessons are given by Des while we play and all our learnings are put into action. Des is a phenomenal teacher with a lot of patience and drive for his students to improve. (Pauline Potgieter)*

*I am thrilled to be part of this group with Des who is a brilliant teacher. We are learning so much more about the game of bridge. (Barbara Jorgensen)*

*Happy hours shared in a happy environment with excellent guidance. (Ann Carol Hyam)*

Sally Potgieter

**President: PECBC**

*20 February 2023*

# High Level Value Doubles (v1)

The majority of bridge players have serious problems when auctions move (either rapidly or slowly) into the stratosphere. The consensus is that the five level is for the opponents and there it seems to stop with bushels of IMPs or MPs being chucked as a result. With a little innovation and a lot of partnership discipline, we can achieve a very high success rate in bidding on or not bidding on and, most importantly, bidding slams – or not.

## To do this we employ High Level Value Doubles HLVD

Simply stated, when opponents bid at the five level, a pass says

- (i) 'I have bid my hand and have nothing more to show therefore I am passing the decision to you'.

A double conveys the message:

- (ii) 'I have better values for my bidding to date and a hand which should play well at the five level or higher, but I have no control in the opponent's suit(s).

When partner doubles:

- (a) With a control in their suit and full values for your bidding, bid your suit at the next higher level

A cue bid would convey the message that:

- (b) 'I have full values for my bidding to date, I have control of the suit in which I just cue bid and, by implication I also have a control in at least one of their suits'. Why is the control in their suits implied, refer to (ii). (One of these controls MUST be 1st round. Ace or void)

To summarise, it seems that the days where you encountered problems posed by opponents pre-empts can rapidly come to an end as you can utilise their bidding to full advantage. The purpose of high pre-empts has always been to restrict the enemy's bidding space and thereby prevent them from showing all of their controls. Playing value doubles with their various options, we are able to effectively cue two suits with one bid, immediately negating a large part of the nuisance value of opponents pre-empts.

You will need to practice your value doubles; at the table you may well encounter situations where there will be some doubt, but you will have a far greater chance to get it right and, in the long run, you will achieve a string of very handsome results with which to impress your teammates.

Tony Truluck has submitted this article in response to a request I made while publishing hands arising in the Mixed Trials. Nobody arrived in the slam on the following hand and I wondered how one could?

So here it is

And now one from the recent South Africa trials.

			♠ A K Q 7 5	
			♥ none	
			♦ 10 7 5 4 3	
			♣ J 5 4	
	♠ none			♠ 10 4 2
	♥ K J 10 8 7 2			♥ A Q 6
	♦ Q 9 8			♦ A 2
	♣ K Q 7 3			♣ A 10 8 6 2
			♠ J 9 8 6 3	
			♥ 9 5 4 3	
			♦ K J 6	
			♣ 9	
	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
	1 ♠	2♣	4♠	5♣
	5 ♠	?		

East has the ideal HLVD holding, a better than promised and no control in spades so he should double! West with first round control in spades and a good hand now bids 6 ♣.

QED

*We will publish the rest of Tony's article in our next edition where he points out the limitations of playing the more popular Forcing Pass in these situations and backs up his argument with a number of examples*





# A Careful Play

Carol Stanton and Vanessa Armstrong with Ross Bernstein and Sharon Lang convincingly beat the star studded team of Val Bloom and Maureen Holroyd with Nicky Bateman and Tas Nestoridis in the ladies trials final. They led by more than 100 points when the match was conceded.

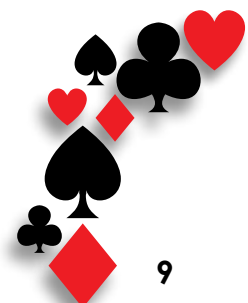
	<b>N</b> Supervan ♠ 1073 ♥ A93 ♦ KJ105 ♣ AKQ	<b>W</b> N <b>E</b> S good raise in spades P 1♠ 2♥ 3♥ P 4♠ P 4NT P 5♠ P 6♠ P P P
	<b>W</b> valfb ♠ A8 ♥ KQJ85 ♦ 98 ♣ 10854	<b>E</b> mgcjh5 ♠ J5 ♥ 10764 ♦ 642 ♣ J732
	<b>S</b> carol2007 ♠ KQ9642 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ73 ♣ 96	6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

The hand above showed Carol exhibit her careful declarer play which even the commentator appeared to miss.

The opening lead was the King of Hearts which she won in dummy and proceeded to ruff a Heart, played a Club to Ace and ruffed another Heart. The commentor asked what was she doing shortening the long hand of trumps and not playing the normal technical play of a Spade to the KQ? Carol realised that Val had to have the A for her overcall so she did not need to play Spades up to the KQ. What she was interested in finding out was how many Hearts LHO had as if she had 6 or 7, she planned to finesse for the Jack of Spades. Maureen showed that she had started with four Hearts by mildly playing high low and following to 3 rounds so the finesse was no longer such a good bet.

Carol now played her Queen of Spades won with the Ace by Val who put her back into dummy. When Carol now played a spade all her preparation proved unnecessary with the Jack appearing. No gain but on another day it may have been crucial detective work to give herself the best chance. As she said the Law of vacant spaces states that if LHO had started with seven hearts and the Ace of Spades there were 5 vacant spaces for JS compared with RHO's 10 vacant spaces

Submitted by Chris Bosenberg



# Errol Pieters

Errol Pieters was one of the great bridge players Pretoria produced and represented this country with his partner Jack Dorfan on a number of occasions. But bridge wasn't his only passion and three years after his death a book about his art work is about to be launched



Photo: Errol Pieters



Photo: Errol and Jack in Bali

---

## errol

A LIFE DEVOTED TO ART, ARCHITECTURE AND TEACHING

*A book about Errol's art work to be launched on the 5th of May in Pretoria.*

---

**Errol Paul Pieters** (5 April, 1951 – 18 April, 2020), was born in Sabie, South Africa. He lived most of his life in Pretoria, where he matriculated at Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool. Errol studied Architecture at the University of Pretoria (UP) and after graduating worked as a researcher and lecturer at UP. However Errol is most remembered for his role as the Head of Department of Architecture at the Tshwane University of Technology where he was a lecturer for 30 years and the HoD for almost 20 years. Errol was an inscrutable mentor and great artisan in architectural drawing, reasoning and pedagogy, who profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of students. This book has special significance for those involved in the architectural profession, or who have a passion for art.



Photo ref from website: [www.errolpieters.com](http://www.errolpieters.com)

Since Errol's retirement in 2011, Errol spent most of his time painting, sketching, and writing. This book allows a glimpse into the large drawers full of sketches, and a loft full of paintings, that Errol left behind in his studio. The book also presents some of Errol's philosophical thoughts and memoirs, on various subjects. Between the pages, the reader will find Errol's artistic work, dating back to his school days, architectural drawings from his student days, the designing of private houses, as well as some commercial work, travel sketches, and last, but not least, his many paintings of the bush and the overseas places he visited.



Photo ref from website: [www.errolpieters.com](http://www.errolpieters.com)



Photo ref from website: [www.errolpieters.com](http://www.errolpieters.com)

'Errol, a life devoted to art, architecture and teaching' will be a 240 mm x 280 mm portrait thread sewn hardcover with dust jacket and will be available as a limited first edition print. Discount rate pre-orders are currently live at [www.errolpieters.com](http://www.errolpieters.com). The book is authored by Désirée Pieters, the widow of Errol Pieters and curator of the body of work he left behind, and Francine van Tonder, Errol's former student, colleague and friend who is an aspiring academic and researcher. Arno Pieters, Carl Jeppe, Allen Lucini, Wessel van Dyk and Riëtte Kotze, all ex-students of Errol, are contributors and they supplied input and text to enrich the book.



Photo ref from website: [www.errolpieters.com](http://www.errolpieters.com)

Submitted by his wife Desiree Pieters

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you a beautiful and special project.

**The book launch is scheduled for the 5th of May 2023** at the University of Pretoria Link Gallery and is per invitation only. Please note on your pre-order if you wish to attend.

You can also contact Désirée at [info@bandbhatfield.co.za](mailto:info@bandbhatfield.co.za) directly.

## James Grant Christmas Cracker Riddles

Daphne won again – is she the only one amongst us that understands riddles or enjoys a glass of good wine?



The riddles were :

***How do you stop rabbits digging up your garden?***

*I would have thought many of you being bridge players would find the answer to this*

***You hide the Spade!***

A few years ago if you had responded “ Hit the rabbit over the head with a Club “ I would also have given you full marks but thanks to the Woke Revoke Board that answer is no longer acceptable and would not only result in negative marks being awarded but you might find yourself arrested for cruelty to animals and encouraging young children to follow a life of violence and crime. Daphne didn't get the right answer to this one but she was the nearest and her Heart was in the right place.

The second riddle was :

***What functions do fairies and elves attend at Christmas?***

***Snowballs!***

Thanks to the WRB I had to completely change the wording of this riddle (but not the answer) because they claimed that the original wording was extremely prejudicial to those of us who weren't sure what gender we belonged to

What is the world coming to I wonder? I realise looking back that in my long lifetime every joke I found really funny would now be banned by the WRB

Here's a short poem I wrote that sums it all up :

***A Woke is no Joke***

***A thought that's sad but true***

***In but a year or two***

***If left to the Wokes***

***There will be no more jokes***

***Another thought even sadder***

***The jokes that are left***

***Will be no laughing matter***



## • Mampoer Tips •

James Grant

As I predicted these tips have been rolling in so we're publishing them in order of merit.

If you were an avid reader of the Bols Tips you might have noticed that they all had a very short and memorable message like Third Hand Plays High or Count your Winners, failing which they had an appealing title like The Kangaroo Coup or The Leaping Tiger or Jumpin' Jack Flash or....hold on, I think the last one might have been the title of a song back in the day when I was a callow youth. But you get my drift, the following tip never made it to the Bols Tips shortlist because it is difficult to describe it in under one hundred words but nevertheless I have come up with.

### When defending don't throw away cards you know won't make tricks

It doesn't really describe the Mampoer tip but I think you will agree it is a really catchy message.

When coming up with this phrase I had to smile for many years ago I played with an exceptionally good player Tony Truluck (see above article on High Level Value Doubles) who, whenever the opponents asked what our discarding system was, would reply "We throw away cards that won't make tricks". Tony didn't believe we needed all these new-fangled conventions like UDCA or revolving discards to find the best defence, a good player should rely on common sense.

But back to this edition's Mampoer Tip, a picture is worth a thousand words.

<b>Bidding</b>				
<b>Dealer South</b>				
NS vul				
<b>West</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
♠ QJ10987				1H
♥ 432	pass	1S	pass	1NT
♦ 32	pass	3NT	all pass	
♣ 32				

You lead the ♠ Q and the following dummy goes down

## South

♠ 6543

♥ KQ9

♦ AK7

♣ A87

## West

♠ QJ10987

♥ 432

♦ 32

♣ 32

To your surprise your queen is covered by your partner's king and won by declarer's ace. You are now sitting with 5 winners in your hand and if declarer is one of those scoundrels who likes bidding no trumps with only a singleton in his partner's suit then we only have to wait until partner gets in to cash them. Declarer proceeds to cash his top 5 heart tricks, after following suit what do you discard?

And this is where this amazing Mampoer Tip comes into its own; you **must not** discard a diamond or a club. In this simple example reluctant though you may be, you must discard spades. Declarer has at least 9 tricks and he will be looking for overtricks, at some stage he will cash his ace and king of diamonds and you must be able to follow suit to protect your partner should declarer have started with ♦Q10xx. If you have shown out on the first or second round of diamonds the play becomes a no brainer. The club suit is not so obvious but is exactly the same principle, if declarer holds the ♣K you cannot discard a club as you must protect your partner when declarer holds ♣ KQ10x. Here declarer will cash the ♣ K before going to dummy with the ace then playing his third club and for the same reason as explained above it is important that you have been able to follow suit to the first two rounds.

So there you go, another made in South Africa Mampoer tip. When the SABF finally get around to publishing the book you're going to kick yourself if you're not in it.

## Hermanus Duplicate Bridge Club

Hermanus Duplicate Bridge Club successfully held their first Red Point pairs tournament at the weekend, attended by 80 players from several provinces.

### The top places were:

1<sup>st</sup> - Chris Bosenberg & Martin Grunder

2<sup>nd</sup> - Jan & Terry East

3<sup>rd</sup> - Gail & Selwyn Gersowsky

=4<sup>th</sup> - Duncan Keet & Imtiaz Kaprey

=4<sup>th</sup> - Ian Holdsworth & Ian Glenn



*Jan & Terry East (second), Gail & Selwyn Gersowsky (third) with HDBC Chairperson, Ian Holdsworth, behind and winners Chris Bosenberg & Martin Grunder.*

Played in the beautiful town of Hermanus the venue at the Hermanus Municipal Hall was the perfect location, providing security, off street parking, a large hall with all facilities and, most importantly, 'power'!

This was an extremely well-run event where competitive bridge was played in a friendly and convivial environment. The wine was provided by their sponsor Creation Wines, and the food by all accounts was superb!

Full results can be found on the HDBC website: [https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?pid=display\\_rank&event=20230415\\_1&club=hermanus](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20230415_1&club=hermanus)

## ♠♥ ACHIEVEMENTS BOARD - April 2023 ♦♣

Emmie	Ackermann	Regional Master
Noah	Apteker	Gold Life Master
Maureen	Bee	Regional Master
John	Bridger	Regional Master
Anne	De Matteis	Life Master
Glynis	Dornon	Grandmaster
Rita	Gawron	Life Master
Kathy	Kay	Regional Master
Duncan	Keet	National Life Master
Rosemary	Mason	Life Master
Sue	Mundy-Castle	Regional Master
Carl	Ragnarsson	National Master
Carol	Ridl	Regional Master
Carol	Ridl	Regional Master
Tony	Rocke	Regional Master
Frank	Touwen	Life Master
Linda	Touwen	Life Master
Carin	Verburg	National Life Master