South African Mixed Trials

EIGHT HURDLES DOWN AND THREE TO GO!

Congratulations to Terry and Jan East who have climbed up from 5th place to 1st during the second day of the SA Mixed Trials. They have accumulated just over 100 VPs (100.98). The chasing pairs are Glen Holman and Michele Alexander in 2nd, Larry Chemaly and Sharon Lang 3rd, Duncan Keet and Carol Stanton 4th and Phil King and Merle Bracher 5th.

At the bottom end we have 5 pairs (Brian Pincus and Maureen Narunsky, Imtiaz Kaprey and Jill Rabie, Paul Reynolds and Erica Zimet and Lex Van Vught with Rita Gawron), all fighting hard to keep in the top eight so they can continue and avoid elimination. Hopefully even if you are 'knocked out' after Day 3 of the Qualifying Rounds you have enjoyed the experience of playing against some of South Africa's top players.

We wish all our competitors Good Luck for Day 3.

Deirdre Ingersent

MIXED PAIRS QUALIFIERS – RESULTS BY ROUND

Disusas	Rank	TOTAL	Rou	ind 1	Rou	ind 2	Rou	ind 3	Rou	ınd 4	Rou	ınd 5	Rou	ind 6	Rou	ind 7	Rou	ınd 8
Players	Rank	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Terry East & Jan East	1	100.98	4	11.38	3	11.05	9	12.90	0	10.00	20	15.58	19	15.37	16	14.70	0	10.00
Glen Holman & Michele Alexander	2	97.45	6	12.01	26	16.73	39	<u>18.66</u>	2	10.71	-9	7.10	-19	4.63	39	18.66	-3	8.95
Larry Chemaly & Sharon Lang	3	94.46	33	17.86	29	17.24	16	14.70	-16	5.30	20	15.58	4	11.38	-16	5.30	-9	7.10
Duncan Keet & Carol Stanton	4	91.87	28	17.08	-4	8.62	24	16.37	0	10.00	-20	4.42	23	16.18	-39	1.34	33	17.86
Phil King & Merle Bracher	5	88.50	10	13.18	-2	9.29	13	13.97	16	14.70	9	12.90	-16	5.30	-11	6.55	8	12.61
Andre Van Niekerk & Rose Duff	6	73.99	25	16.55	4	11.38	-16	5.30	-1	9.64	-20	4.42	-3	8.95	1	10.36	-8	7.39
Peter Ward & Merle Modlin	7	73.64	-33	2.14	2	10.71	-24	3.63	-2	9.29	2	10.71	12	13.71	11	13.45	о	10.00
Brian Pincus & Maureen Narunsky	8	70.95	-4	8.62	-26	3.27	9	12.90	1	10.36	-9	7.10	16	14.70	-41	1.10	9	12.90
Imtiaz Kaprey & Jill Rabie	9	70.23	-6	7.99	-2	9.29	-13	6.03	-23	3.82	9	12.90	-4	8.62	26	16.73	-18	4.85
Paul Reynolds & Erica Zimet	10	69.20	-25	3.45	-3	8.95	-39	1.34	-5	8.30	-2	9.29	-23	3.82	41	<mark>18.90</mark>	18	15.15
Jude Apteker & Zela Stern	11	67.09	-28	2.92	2	10.71	-9	7.10	5	11.70	-2	9.29	3	11.05	-26	3.27	3	11.05
Lex Van Vught & Rita Gawron	12	61.64	-10	6.82	-29	2.76	-9	7.10	23	16.18	2	10.71	-12	6.29	-1	9.64	-33	2.14

DAY 3 – MATCH SCHEDULE

		1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	ALEXANDER, Michele	HOLMAN, Glen
lay		2	WARD, Peter	MODLIN, Merle	ZIMET, Erica	REYNOLDS , Paul
: 07-N 10:00	9	3	KAPREY, Imtiaz	RABIE, Jill	DUFF, Rose	VAN NIEKERK, Andre
Tue 07-May 10:00	9	4	PINCUS, Brian	NARUNSKY, Maureen	GAWRON, Rita	VAN VUGHT, Lex
Tu		5	EAST, Terry	EAST, Jan	STERN, Zela	APTEKER, Jude
		6	KING, Phil	BRACHER, Merle	STANTON, Carol	KEET, Duncan
		1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	ZIMET, Erica	REYNOLDS, Paul
lay		2	VAN VUGHT, Lex	GAWRON, Rita	STERN, Zela	APTEKER, Jude
Tue 07-May 11:30	10 3	3	EAST, Terry	EAST, Jan	BRACHER, Merle	KING, Phil
e 0] 11:	10	4	HOLMAN, Glen	ALEXANDER, Michele	DUFF, Rose	VAN NIEKERK, Andre
Tu		5	PINCUS, Brian	NARUNSKY, Maureen	MODLIN, Merle	WARD, Peter
		6	KEET, Duncan	STANTON, Carol	RABIE, Jill	KAPREY, Imtiaz
		1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	STERN, Zela	APTEKER, Jude
lay		2	VAN NIEKERK, Andre	DUFF, Rose	MODLIN, Merle	WARD, Peter
e 07-M 14:30	11	3	PINCUS, Brian	NARUNSKY, Maureen	STANTON, Carol	KEET, Duncan
Tue 07-May 14:30		4	REYNOLDS, Paul	ZIMET, Erica	BRACHER, Merle	KING, Phil
Tu		5	HOLMAN, Glen	ALEXANDER, Michele	GAWRON, Rita	VAN VUGHT, Lex
		6	KAPREY, Imtiaz	RABIE, Jill	EAST, Jan	EAST, Terry

Some of the players from Cape Town:



Phil King

Merle Bracher

Glen Holman

Michele Alexander

Terry East

Round 5 – Hand 6

Look at this! East West can make 6H and North South can make 5S. No fewer than 5 doubled contracts with 4 making. Can we learn anything from the bidding as seen below at each table?

lexvan	kimeden	rixi181	horace1	6♥xW=	1660	15.00
bkpsc	moremo	JillyRabz	imtiaz1	6 ♥ ₩=	1430	11.60
InTime	tarankaur	SweetieE	teeast	<mark>5≜xE+1</mark>	950	5.00
judeap	sternz	merl66	peter3202	5≜xS-1	100	-4.00
impalaphil	stacey31	lady macb	glensa	5≜xN=	-650	-13.80
larryc777	sharrie	carol2007	Dunx	5≜xN=	-650	-13.80



Not sure if we can learn anything. Freak hands are difficult to assess, but I would like to make the following points

- 1. The most successful auctions for North South were where North made a simple 1♠ overcall with his big 2-suiter.
- 2. Those who made a takeout double with the North hands failed to get their hands across. It would be highly unlikely that partner would be able to bid a doubleton spade, where your best chance for making game lies. If you wish to show both suits with such extreme shape, it is best to bid 2NT (showing at least 5-5 in the other 2 suits). Remember, however, that you should be cautious making a 2-suiter with 6 cards in an unbid major.
- 3. Those who chose to pre-empt 4♠ with the North hand, made a possibly reasonable choice. But when opponents competed further, a bid of 5♦ would have completed the description of their hand. Typically, you wish to buy the contract when you're 6-6 shape in 2 suits. While it is usually frowned upon to bid again when you have made a pre-emptive bid, it is acceptable when you have a highly unusual hand.
- 4. Those East West pairs who got to 6♥ did really well, but maybe their opponents should have taken out insurance at the prevailing vulnerability and bid 6♠. Only 1 down.

Declarer Play

₽	 N larryc777 ▲ KQ83 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q ♣ J10973 	W N E S 1♣ P 1♥ P 2♥ P 2NT P 3♦ P 3NT P P P -
 ✓ Dunx ▲ J9764 ♥ Q82 ♦ A7 ♣ 864 		 E carol2007 ▲ A ♥ 963 ♦ J109432 ♣ Q52
	 S sharrie ▲ 1052 ♥ K754 ♦ K865 ♣ AK 	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

Declarers, South, were faced with the 4th highest 6. Making use of the rule of 11, declarer could work out that East has only 1 card higher than the 6. This could be the Ace, Jack, 9 or 7. Most declarers made the correct decision to duck, as this only loses to the Jack, but gains against all other holdings. 1st hurdle was overcome when East wins with the Ace. East switched to a low diamond won by West with the Ace. West continued the suit. Declarer now ducked 1 round and won the next round of diamonds with West showing out.

Let's count tricks:

- 1. We have lost 3 tricks 1 spade and 2 diamonds.
- 2. We can make 3 spade tricks knowing that East has no higher cards in the suit.
- 3. We can make 3 heart tricks but need to ensure that we do not lose a heart to East who has a mountain of diamonds to cash. We must take the heart finesse through East to keep him off lead.
- 4. We have 1 diamond trick and 2 club tricks.

Checking I see that we have 9 tricks. Therefore, correct line is; spade 10, take the heart finesse losing to West. Unblock hearts and repeat spade finesse if necessary. Use the clubs for communication.

Counting wins the day again.	bkpsc	moremo	JillyRabz	imtiaz1	3NS+1	430	5.40
	impalaphil	stacey31	lady macb	glensa	3NN=	400	4.60
	InTime	tarankaur	sweetieE	teeast	3NS=	400	4.60
	lexvan	kimeden	rixi181	horace1	3NS=	400	4.60
	judeap	sternz	merl66	peter3202	3NS-4	-200	-9.20
	larryc777	sharrie	carol2007	Dunx	3NS-5	-250	<mark>-10.00</mark>

2 Mixed Pairs trialists went down 4 and 5 tricks respectively when they failed to count.

I was surprised to see one of the successful declarers taking the dangerous heart finesse which risked losing to East's queen and an avalanche of diamonds. They got lucky this time.

Rita Gawron took the recommended line and gained 4.6 imps for that effort – well done!

To bid or not to bid

□ 4	 N larryc777 ▲ K94 ♥ KQJ10982 ♦ 9 ♣ 82 	W N E S P 4♥ X P 4♠ P P P
 ₩ Dunx ▲ A76 ♥ A74 ♦ 8542 ♣ 754 		 E carol2007 ♠ Q532 ♥ 5 ♦ KQJ106 ♣ AK9
	 S sharrie ▲ J108 ♥ 63 ♦ A73 ♣ QJ1063 	4 • W NS: 0 EW: 0

When partner makes a takeout double of a high level pre-empt, my strong advice is to pass with all balanced hands almost regardless of strength. Bidding 3 card suits is not recommended, and it is usually wrong to make any bid unless you have a reasonable expectation that you can make your contract. It's much easier to take 4 tricks compared with taking 10 or 11 tricks, especially when suits are rated to be breaking badly. 4♥ doubled went down 2 for plus 500 at the tables where West sensibly passed.

Follow the Clues

North/South were the only pair to get to the reasonable 3NT contract where most of the time there will be 6 diamond tricks, 1 spade and 2 clubs. The bad diamond break means there are only 4 diamond tricks but the defence has to be careful. West reasonably led his singleton heart in the suit overcalled by partner. East unfortunately did not appreciate that when the 9♥ appears in dummy, partner can only have 1 or 2 hearts and there is no future in the heart suit. Declarer probably

D	N horace1	W N E S
9	 ▲ A873 ♥ Q9 ♦ A3 ▲ AK974 	1 ♣ 1 ♥ 2 ♦ P 2 ▲ P 3 ♦ P 3 ♥ P 3NT P P P P
W bkpsc		E moremo
▲ KQ94		▲ 1062
♥ 10 ♦ 109752		🕈 AK652
◆ 109732 ◆ Q102		♣ J8653
	S rixi181	
	 ▲ J5 ♥ J8743 ♦ KQJ864 	
	*	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

has 6 diamonds and at least 4 hearts making a black suit switch reasonable – spades is probably safer. On the hand, East cashed the A♥ and now 9 tricks were easy. Plus 400 was worth 9.4 imps.

Tip: Especially after an informative auction, there are invariably plenty of clues to guide the defence.

Good Judgement or Sensible Restraint?

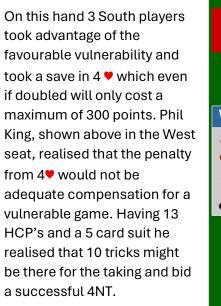
11	 N imtiaz1 ▲ AKQ52 ♥ A75 ♦ 82 ♣ K53 	W N E S P 1♠ P 2♠ P 2NT P 4♠ P P P P
 ₩ judeap ▲ J98 ♥ K9 ♦ K10964 ▲ Q97 		E sternz ▲ 10 ♥ J86432 ♦ 5 ♣ J10642
	 S JillyRabz ♠ 7643 ♥ Q10 ♦ AQJ73 ♣ A8 	4 ≜ N NS: 0 EW: 0

This hand is instructive in that there is usually no slam when 2 balanced hands, even if they have a fit, have fewer than 31/32 high card points. This isn't the worse slam you could bid but probably needs the diamond finesse to be right a lot of the time. Note that the South hand is exceptionally strong for a 2 bid in that it has a good source of tricks in diamonds. (Picture the South hand with 1 fewer diamond and 1 more club or heart and you will see how poor the slam would be).

On the auction above, that

was duplicated a few times around the room, Imtiaz was restrained enough to not look for the magical slam even though partner had shown 4 spades and a maximum. 2 pairs got to slam and were punished when the diamond finesse was off and the suit did not break.

I was Vulnerable!



6 ₽	N InTime	W N E S 1NT 2♣ 3NT P P 4♥
	 ♦ Q109873 ♣ A4 	4NT P P P
W impalaphil		E stacey31
♠ K643		♠ A2
🕈 KJ		💙 A6
🔶 K5		♦ AJ642
📥 QJ652		📥 K1093
	S <mark>tarankaur</mark>	
	♠ QJ1095	
	♥ Q107543 ♦	
	4 87	4NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

Dunx	carol2007	kimeden	lexvan	<mark>4♥xS-1</mark>	-100	<mark>9.80</mark>
larryc777	sharrie	moremo	bkpsc	4 ∀ xS-2	-300	5.40
judeap	sternz	lady macb	glensa	3NW+2	-660	-3.80
teeast	SweetieE	merl66	peter3202	4NE+1	-660	-3.80
imtiaz1	JillyRabz	rixi181	horace1	3NE+2	-660	-3.80
InTime	tarankaur	stacey31	impalaphil	4NE+1	-660	-3.80

All of the above hands were submitted by Bernard Donde

Novice & Advancing Players' Corner

Bidding or defending against No Trump contracts

Yesterday's bulletin addressed the importance of bidding against opponents' contracts when they stop at a low level. Today we are going to address whether we ought to compete against opponent's 1NT contracts.

In general, when opponents open 1NT (particularly in South Africa) they are promising 15-17 HCP. We should compete against these hands when we have shape and **not necessarily points**. Let's think about why. When the opponents open 1NT they are already stating they have close to 1/3rd of the deck's points. How are we going to make tricks? We can't possibly make tricks through just having High Card Points because our opponents already have half the deck of points. We can however make tricks through long suits. That is why most conventions that deal with bidding over a 1NT opening bid show either 6 card suits or a 2 suited hand with minimum 5/4 in two suits and often that 5 card suit is a Major. If you are interested in the conventions that exist that deal with bidding over 1NT have a look at the following links:

Cappelletti: https://bridgebum.com/cappelletti.php

DONT: https://bridgebum.com/dont.php

Multi-Landy: https://www.bridgebum.com/multi_landy.php

(I suggest Multi-Landy which for some strange reason is often referred to as Hamilton in South Africa)

Let's have a brief look at some of the trial hands which had an opportunity to bid over 1NT:

^{1.} ♠AJ10 ♥AQ3 ●96 ♣A8432	^{2.} ♦QJ2 ♦AKJ ♦KQ52 ♣K96	
^{3.} ♦1062 ♦ ♣J8653	^{4.} ♦QJ1095 ♥Q107543 ♦ ♣87	
^{5.} ♦943 ♦86 ♦QJ1064 ♣AQ5	^{6.} ♦KJ1083 ♥Q1062 ♦42 ♣76	

Can you work out which 3 of the above hands most players decided to overcall with after their opponent's 1NT opening bid?

Hands 3,4 and 6 decided to compete over 1NT. Why? All 3 of those hands had at least 2 suits that they could potentially develop despite the lack of HCP. The aim is to produce tricks through the development of shape. It is really hard to get enough tricks when you have a balanced hand and your opponent has just as many high cards and a similar shape. All 3 of the hands that overcalled had at least one decent Major suit and at least two suits with which they could produce tricks. You may look at hands 1 and 2 and ask yourself why on earth are we passing with such decent hands? These hands are defensive hands... as long as you get the defence right. This brings us to the big discussion of tonight. When you have a decent balanced hand against a 1NT opening bidder you had better make sure your defensive hat is well placed on your head and you are paying attention...

	N carol2007 9+ ♠853 ♥Q543 ♦4 ♣107542	
<pre>W carol2007 9+</pre>	WNESPassPass1NT Pass2♥Pass2♠PassPass2♣3.7 s	
	S <mark>≌ carol20079+</mark> ♠QJ2 ♥AKJ ♦KQ52 ♣K96	

The most reasonable auction that occurred during trials is seen here (my name is in all the seats so as not to throw anyone under the bus).

You rightly, decided to pass and now you have to defeat 2Φ .

Question 1: what do you lead? South should lead top of a sequence (we have all heard that). But which sequence? You have 2, you have the AK of ♥and the KQ of ♦. Which is better? Leading the Ace is always the best idea. Why? You get to win the trick AND have a look at dummy. You also get signals from partner telling you whether they

liked or disliked your lead. What do we need to have in order to encourage the lead? Against suit contracts there are 2 situations where we encourage the lead, either we have an equivalent honour (the Ace promises the King and therefore the Queen is an equivalent honour) or we have a doubleton and we are telling partner we can ruff the 3rd heart. How do we send encouraging signals? I prefer 'low I like'. So the signaling would look like the below image:



The 3 is very clearly low and so I would know immediately that my partner was encouraging the lead with either the Q or the possibility of being able to ruff the 3rd ♥.

However, many people play high encourages the lead. I am often asked what is better. I personally prefer 'low I like' but a very good bridge partner of mine once said "The best signals are the ones your partner understands". That is very important. It does not matter what you play as long as you are on the same page and can understand what your partner plays. So, let's look at what happens if you play 'High = Encouraging'.

This is when you have to be awake. Partner will always play the highest card they have available to them to encourage the lead. This does not mean it is a high card in the classical sense. If you look at the cards played you have to ask



yourself where is the 4 and the 3 of ♥. Why has no one played them. Maybe my partner has them and was forced to play the 5 to tell me to continue but had no higher card. Whatever signalling system you play you ALWAYS have to look at the card in the context of what is shown. It is not easy. It takes work and it is work you have to be willing to do. To be a good partner means watching and working out what your partner's problem may be. In this case your partner was stuck with low cards and did the best they could.

If you correctly read the 5 as a high encouraging signal you were well on your way to defeating this contract. As long as you played 3 rounds of hearts, with partner winning the Q in the 3rd round and returning the diamond the contract was down. But even the best of the best got it wrong. Have a look at the traveller:

8	2 ♦ S-3	150		1.8	
8	2 ♠ E+1	140		1.4	
8	2 ♠ E+1	140		1.4	
8	3 # S-2	100			
8	3 ♣ N-2	100			
8	2 ♠ E-1		50		4.6

Only 1 pair found a route to defeating the contract.

3 pairs could not resist the temptation to bid over 1NT with the South hand and promptly found themselves going down instead of the opponents.

And 2 pairs could not find the correct defence.

We are all working on our Bridge during trials. The aim is always to do the right thing. To think and to pay attention. Bid over 1NT with shape not values. Watch the cards your partner plays and work out what they are trying to say. Do not jump to conclusions just because a card may look low or high. Is it possible that it's the best they can do in the situation they are in.

Submitted by Carol Stanton

Visualisation and a bit of Safety

D	 N North ▲ Q64 ♥ K1063 ♦ A4 ▲ 10976 	W N E S 1♥ P 2♥ 3♣ P 3NT P P P
 ₩ West 95 ★ AJ985 ★ KJ753 ★ K 		 E East ▲ J872 ♥ Q72 ♦ Q1062 ♣ 82
	 S South ▲ AK103 ♥ 4 ♦ 98 ▲ AQJ543 	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

This hand came up in the final round of the mixed trials on day 2. There are two very interesting and instructive observations that I want to discuss regarding declarer's chosen line of play on the given defence.

I am not going to comment on the bidding of this hand as there are a multitude of different auctions that could have changed the direction of the final contract. Let's assume that we are playing 3NT from North on the lead of the 2.

West wins with the Ace and returns the 5♥. What is the division of the heart suit? West must have 5 cards and East exactly 3. What should we do now? It might seem correct to just play low for another round to cut the opponents' communications but let's investigate the layout that most probably exists in the heart suit. The question that we must answer is whether East's hand has one of the outstanding honours. If so, we have a clear way to cut/block the opponents' communications immediately by going up with the K♥. The key card in our hand which doesn't allow the opponents to unblock the heart suit is the 10♥.

The key lies in West winning with the A♥ and returning a low card......which holding is possible for West on this play and which is not? Well, what would West play if he had the AQJXX in the suit? It is natural to put in the in J with that holding, to preserve comms with partner when he might hold exactly 3 cards. We can therefore conclude that the K♥ has to be the correct play as the Hearts are now blocked and declarer can lose one trick but the opponents can't untangle the Hearts when they get the lead. So we can now safely take a Club finesse and if it loses the contract is completely safe. Note that ducking a second heart carries the risk of opponents switching to diamonds which may be fatal on the hand.

My last point of interest deals with us ducking the first two tricks, which would have been correct had we not held the 10♥. Once we have cut the East hand off from partner's hand, do we finesse a Club or not? Do we need ALL the Club tricks to fulfil our contract or not? We don't, but in setting up our Club suit we must avoid giving West an entry at all costs as an entry would mean defeat. The correct play then is to refuse the Club finesse and simply play the Ace. In the layout above we get lucky and catch West's King. If East of course had the King we can now safely lose the lead to that hand and claim our contract.

The play of the King as suggested in my first discussion point is necessary in the event that West was dealt KX or KXX and we couldn't avoid the loss of the lead at a critical stage to West.

Submitted by Hennie Fick

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE!

HOW TO PLAY DUMMY CORRECTLY!

This entry will be of more use to beginner club players I feel but no harm for all players to be reminded about dummy's rights.

First and foremost, dummy must be silent and not lead declarer in any way.

The following pointers show how a dummy should act.

1. Dummy should lay out the cards before writing down details on his personal score sheet or entering the contract in the Bridgemate to ensure the other players at the table are not kept waiting.

2. Cards in each suit should be laid out neatly and clearly, in sequence from high to low.

3. The trump suit should be laid out on Dummy's right.

4. Dummy must not touch a card before receiving instructions from the declarer. This includes playing a card even when it is a singleton. (Remember that it is extremely advisable for declarer to plan the hand before playing to the first trick. He does not need to be hurried by an overeager Dummy).

5. Dummy may not ask for a review of the auction.

6. Dummy is not entitled to call the Tournament Director when there has been an infraction of the law or other problem during play.

7. Dummy may not draw declarer's attention to anything except when he is about to lead from the wrong hand or ask if he is out of the suit just played or he has a trick count card incorrectly orientated.

8. Dummy may however call a Tournament Director after the hand has been played out.

Now here's an interesting fact . . .

If declarer designates a suit, but not the rank, declarer is deemed to have called for the lowest card of the suit indicated. If declarer designates a rank but not a suit, declarer is deemed to be continuing the suit in which dummy won the last trick. To avoid any confusion, it is best if declarer clearly states e.g. Small club or 'Ace of Hearts'. (Ace and eight can sound very similar - be careful with this.)

Watch for the next part!

Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent