South African Mixed Trials

Bulletin: Number 8

WELCOMING THE SA MIXED TRIALISTS!

Sunday May 5th sees 12 pairs start out in their quest to be the SA representatives in the Mixed Team section. The event they are heading for is still the 16th World Bridge Games which is being staged in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 22nd until November 3rd.

The format remains as it was for the Open and Women's. The pairs compete against each other and the top three finishers make up the SA team. Firstly, there are the Qualifying rounds, and at the end of this 4 pairs will be eliminated leaving the 8 remaining pairs to play out a total round robin. This has to be the fairest way, I believe.

As before, the Trials are open to anyone, no particular number of red points needed, and it is interesting to note that Mixed Pairs events are gaining in popularity in South Africa. Last time around Johannesburg was the busy centre for monitoring with 19 players in residence the whole week, but this time around the Cape Town venue will host 17 players, Johannesburg 6 players, and one player will be at home in Knysna using a special camera to spy on him, as he does not live near either centre.

The Cape Town contingent appears to be composed of many pairs where a not so experienced player has teamed up with a 'professional'. In several cases one or both of the players competed in the Open or Women's sections, but were unsuccessful and are having another bite at the cherry, so to speak, in these Trials. A quick look at the names sees some participants paired, who do not normally play together, so, presumably, they have worked out a system that suits both of them. Others I have seen in BBO events.

As to the fancied pairs, I am not sure! Like racehorses, some have form, and I guess the well-known husband and wife team of Terry and Jan East from Plettenberg Bay, Larry Chemaly and Sharon Lang from Johannesburg and the two Cape Town pairs of Duncan Keet with Carol Stanton, and Brian Pincus with Maureen Narunsky, could be the so-called favourites but in a large field like this, no pair can be discounted. Peter Ward, a gold life master, has a most experienced partner in Merle Modlin who has represented South Africa so many times in the past. Phil King with Merle Bracher have not to my knowledge played in trials previously. Lex Van Vught with Rita Gawron and Andre Van Niekerk with Rose Duff are experienced contenders but have not had much international exposure in the past. Then we have participants who were in the open and women's Trials and are now giving it another bash - Jude Apteker with Zela Stern and Paul Reynolds and Erica Zimet. Then there are Glen Holman and Michele Alexander and Imtiaz Kaprey with Jill Rabie. Glen and Imtiaz have both played for South Africa previously. So, a wide-open field! We all know how often in horseracing a so-called outsider sneaks in at the finishing three.

It seems important to me, that in order to get to the final round robin a pair must get off to a good start and then maintain that with a steady performance in each match. With short board matches, just a small error in defence or the failure to find a game, can be extremely costly.

We wish all the participants Good Luck and look forward to following their progress.

♥ Deirdre Ingersent

MIXED PAIRS ENTRIES

Player 1		Player 2	
Name	**BBO Name**	**Name**	**BBO Name**
APTEKER, Jude	judeap	STERN, Zela	sternz
CHEMALY, Larry	larryc777	LANG, Sharon	sharrie
EAST, Terry	teeast	EAST, Jan	sweetieE
HOLMAN, Glen	glensa	ALEXANDER, Michele	lady macb
KAPREY, Imtiaz	imtiaz1	RABIE, Jill	jillyrabz
KEET, Duncan	dunx	STANTON, Carol	carol2007
KING, Phil	impalaphil	BRACHER, Merle	stacey31
PINCUS, Brian	bkpsc	NARUNSKY, Maureen	moremo
REYNOLDS, Paul	horace1	ZIMET, Erica	rixi181
VAN NIEKERK, Andre	InTime	DUFF, Rose	tarankaur
VAN VUGHT, Lex	lexvan	GAWRON, Rita	kimeden
WARD, Peter	peter3202	MODLIN, Merle	merl66

DAY 1 – MATCH SCHEDULE

Start	Rnd	Tbl	North	South	East	West
Sun 05-May 10:00	1	1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	MODLIN, Merle	WARD, Peter
		2	KING, Phil	BRACHER, Merle	GAWRON, Rita	VAN VUGHT, Lex
		3	HOLMAN, Glen	ALEXANDER, Michele	RABIE, Jill	KAPREY, Imtiaz
		4	APTEKER, Jude	STERN, Zela	STANTON, Carol	KEET, Duncan
		5	REYNOLDS, Paul	ZIMET, Erica	DUFF, Rose	VAN NIEKERK, Andre
		6	EAST, Terry	EAST, Jan	NARUNSKY, Maureen	PINCUS, Brian
Sun 05-May 11:30	2	1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	GAWRON, Rita	VAN VUGHT, Lex
		2	KEET, Duncan	STANTON, Carol	DUFF, Rose	VAN NIEKERK, Andre
		3	REYNOLDS, Paul	ZIMET, Erica	EAST, Jan	EAST, Terry
		4	WARD, Peter	MODLIN, Merle	RABIE, Jill	KAPREY, Imtiaz
		5	APTEKER, Jude	STERN, Zela	BRACHER, Merle	KING, Phil
		6	PINCUS, Brian	NARUNSKY, Maureen	ALEXANDER, Michele	HOLMAN, Glen
Sun 05-May 14:30	3	1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	DUFF, Rose	VAN NIEKERK, Andre
		2	KAPREY, Imtiaz	RABIE, Jill	BRACHER, Merle	KING, Phil
		3	APTEKER, Jude	STERN, Zela	NARUNSKY, Maureen	PINCUS, Brian
		4	VAN VUGHT, Lex	GAWRON, Rita	EAST, Jan	EAST, Terry
		5	WARD, Peter	MODLIN, Merle	STANTON, Carol	KEET, Duncan
		6	HOLMAN, Glen	ALEXANDER, Michele	ZIMET, Erica	REYNOLDS, Paul
Sun 05-May 16:00	4	1	CHEMALY, Larry	LANG, Sharon	BRACHER, Merle	KING, Phil
		2	EAST, Terry	EAST, Jan	STANTON, Carol	KEET, Duncan
		3	WARD, Peter	MODLIN, Merle	ALEXANDER, Michele	HOLMAN, Glen
		4	VAN NIEKERK, Andre	DUFF, Rose	NARUNSKY, Maureen	PINCUS, Brian
		5	VAN VUGHT, Lex	GAWRON, Rita	RABIE, Jill	KAPREY, Imtiaz
		6	REYNOLDS, Paul	ZIMET, Erica	STERN, Zela	APTEKER, Jude

Novices' Corner

Carol Stanton has kindly offered to submit articles for the bulletins which will be of interest to new and advancing tournament bridge players.

Bernard Donde is going to start off with the first:

Playing tournament bridge, you need to have firm agreements with your partner so that you are able to 'speak' to your partner and thereby arrive at correct contracts and find winning defences to your opponents' contracts. However, there is no substitute for good judgement and I would therefore like to illustrate this with a short quiz.

1) Your partner opens 1♠ and you hold the following hands;
   a) ♠ A32 ♥ K1043 ♦ 32 ♣ 1082
   b) ♠ K32 ♥ A1043 ♦ 32 ♣ 1082

Which hand do you think is better or are they both the same?

2) Your partner opens 1♠ and you hold the following hands;
   a) ♠ Q32 ♥ 10832 ♦ Q87 ♣ QJ2
   b) ♠ K32 ♥ A1043 ♦ 832 ♣ 1082
   c) ♠ 1043 ♥ A872 ♦ K102 ♣ Q82

Before reading on, decide whether you would respond 2♠ or 1NT with each of these hands..

Answers

1) Both hands have 7 high card points but Hand b is better than Hand a. Why? Because the ♠K is definitely working well in hand b whereas in hand a, the ♥K may not be of value (picture this holding opposite a singleton in partner's hand).
2) a) 1NT – my values are poor (queens and jacks are overvalued in the 4321-point count system) and I don't want to encourage partner to bid again unless he has a very good hand.

   b) 2♠ - Hand b has the same point count as hand a but here my values are useful. If partner makes a game try, I may not accept but it is likely that a 3-level contract will make. If partner bids game directly, I am confident that we will make it most of the time.

   c) 2♠ - I have a maximum point count and would be delighted to accept a game try from partner. If partner jumps to game, I am confident that we will make it most of the time. Don't start thinking that this hand has all the suits covered and therefore 1NT should be ok. On this hand we want to encourage partner to bid again. The biggest encouragement is to let partner know that we have a fit.

A Quiz for advanced players:

♠ A103
♥ 764
♦ A8
♣ A9543

Both vulnerable the bidding goes as follows with you sitting West:

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	3 ♦	3 ♥
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Do you agree with West's bid of 4♦?

If not, what would you bid?

I don't know the answer (that's why this is for advanced players) and why I would love to hear your views. My thoughts:

1) My hand is too good for 4♦. I have 3 tricks (NOT aces and spaces)
2) I don't want to punish partner for pre-balancing but at the same time I don't want to make a bid that sounds just competitive.
3) It looks wrong to bid 4♣ on such a poor suit but partner should realise that I must have diamond tolerance or better as I could not bid 2♣ over 1♥. However, partner may have a singleton club and think I have the wrong values for game.
4) If I double that would suggest values and spades and clubs with diamond tolerance. It would have the advantage that, admittedly rarely, partner would be able to bid 3NT with 9 tricks on top. If partner comes to life with something like 4S, I can correct to 5D.

My vote goes to double.

What do you think? Please send comments to bdonde@cancersa.co.za

The East hand was:

♠ KJ96
♥ 3
♦ KQ107642
♣ 6