

## **Bulletin number 1 – SABF Mixed Teams November 24**

This long weekend of 8 - 10 November saw the birth of a new event on the SABF Calendar- a Mixed Pairs Teams Event. Mixed Pairs and teams are widely played overseas and I remember from the last time I was in the UK, several events are run there separately i.e. Ladies Pairs or Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs, not just Pairs as we do here.

Our event has not attracted a good entry this year but I can't help but feel that we did not position it well on the calendar as our teams who went to Buenos Aires are only just back (and that was a lot of bridge!) and SAWBA (both teams and pairs) is coming up shortly. We have to remember that most bridge players have another life besides bridge!

This event has an entry of 12 teams and is being played on RealBridge using a full Round Robin format. 12 boards per round so each pair plays both pairs in the opposing team. My team has 2 brand new partnerships which is not the best when facing strong formidable opposition. However we are having fun, which is important, and hopefully learning from the experience! I am hoping that next year more Mixed partnerships will be encouraged to form teams and enter.

It has been well organised by Steve Bunker who always goes the extra mile to ensure all entrants understand the format and have an enjoyable outing! Another important feature - it was not expensive to enter, in fact outstanding value for money!

**Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent**

## Results after 4/11 Matches

### Overall scores

Pos	No	Team	Score
1	3	KAPREY	60.48
2	2	DONDE	55.80
3	10	HINGLE	54.80
4	8	EBER	50.29
5	4	STERN	47.88
6	1	PINCUS	43.46
7	6	CAMPBELL	41.43
8	9	ALEXANDER	34.85
9	11	VAN NIEKERK	28.25
10	5	ZIMET	24.58
11	7	BEINART	24.43
12	12	INGERSENT	13.75

### Top Butler scores

Pos	Team	Pair	Average	Total	Bds
1	HINGLE	Vanessa Armstrong & Mark Oliff	+1.27	+668 / 528	48
2	KAPREY	Imtiaz Kaprey & Jill Rabie	+1.21	+639 / 528	48
3	EBER	Neville Eber & Val Bloom	+1.17	+619 / 528	48
4	DONDE	Bernard Donde & Tas Nestoridis	+0.98	+515 / 528	48
5	DONDE	Nicola Bateman & Larry Chemaly	+0.86	+453 / 528	48
6	STERN	Jude Apteker & Zela Stern	+0.47	+250 / 528	48
7	CAMPBELL	Diana Knowler & Wilf Sperryn	+0.38	+202 / 528	48
8	PINCUS	Nancy Minwalla & Diniar Minwalla	+0.36	+189 / 528	48
9	KAPREY	Kevin Smith & Merle Bracher	+0.30	+159 / 528	48
10	STERN	John Bryant & Sue Botha	+0.29	+151 / 528	48
11	EBER	Claire Whitburn & Christopher Bosenberg	+0.18	+48 / 264	24
12	HINGLE	Greg Hingle & Maureen Holroyd	+0.18	+93 / 528	48
13	PINCUS	Brian Pincus & Diana Balkin	+0.06	+32 / 528	48
14	ZIMET	Martin Grunder & Erica Zimet	+0.01	+3 / 528	48

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with four players' cards and a bidding box. The interface includes a close button (X), a 'DPS' button, and a '6/2' button. The bidding box shows 'Bd 10, Dlr E' and '5♥ = W'. The players are: West (W) Tas Nestoridis, North (N) Andre van Niekerk, East (E) Bernard Donde, and South (S) Rose Duff. The cards are as follows:

Player	Spades (♠)	Hearts (♥)	Diamonds (♦)	Clubs (♣)
West (W) Tas Nestoridis	Q8	KJ8752	AQ84	2
North (N) Andre van Niekerk	K3	—	KJ10953	AKJ93
East (E) Bernard Donde	AJ654	A1043	762	8
South (S) Rose Duff	10972	Q96	—	Q107654

The bidding box also shows a score of 0-0 and navigation buttons (<, >, ↺). A table in the bottom right corner shows the bidding sequence:

	W	N	E	S
			P	P
1♥		2NT*	3♣*	5♣
5♥		P	P	P

Tas Nestoridis played 5H brilliantly to land this contract after a small misdefence. North led the K♣ and had a difficult decision on what to play next. He decided to continue clubs giving a ruff and discard which did not help declarer. Tas pitched a diamond from dummy and ruffed in hand. She now drew trumps picking up the queen. She then played a low spade to the Jack and when that held, she made the key play of a low spade to the queen. This endplayed North who now switched to diamonds which gave the contract. If spades turned out to be 3-3, Tas had 11 tricks. Ducking the spade lured North into making the error of switching to a diamond. If he gives another ruff and discard, there are only 10 tricks.

In the other room, Larry Chemaly sitting South made 11 tricks in clubs after ruffing out the diamonds for a 15 imp gain.

<b>Board 4</b>	♠ AKJ108	
<b>Dealer W</b>	♥ AQ	
<b>All Vul</b>	♦ J65	
	♣ A72	
♠ 32		♠ Q74
♥ K985		♥ 1072
♦ 9432		♦ AKQ107
♣ Q64		♣ J9
	♠ 965	
	♥ J643	
	♦ 8	
	♣ K10853	

This hand was interesting at a number of tables.

North dealt and opened 1♠. The first question to ask is would you overcall 2D with the East hand? The diamond suit is very good and bidding does stop South from bidding 1NT or 2♣ but we only have a 5 card suit and we have the worst possible shape and a questionable Q♠. Passing has the upside that opponents may get to 3NT with no diamond stopper. Overall, my opinion is that pass is the best action.

If East passes, what should South do. Many South's passed and that was the end of the auction and a good game was missed. Players who play that a raise to 2♠ is constructive showing 8-10 HCP's should bid 1NT forcing and then game will be reached. The hand has too much playing strength with the singleton diamond and outside King to pass.

At most tables when East did overcall 2♦, South raised to 2♠ and the game was easily bid.

**Board 24**  
**Dealer W**  
**None Vul**

♠ QJ654	♠ A732	♠ –
♥ –	♥ 932	♥ AK10864
♦ KQJ82	♦ A	♦ 96543
♣ AK10	♣ QJ964	♣ 52
	♠ K1098	
	♥ QJ75	
	♦ 107	
	♣ 873	

Bidding a slam with 2 voids, particularly when one of the voids is in your partner's first bid suit is especially difficult. Only 2 pairs, Hennie Fick/ Janne Masojada and John Bryant/Sue Botha, in the Mixed teams managed to reach 6♦.

The East hand poses a number of problems for players who play a 2 over 1 system. When partner opens 1♠, East has to bid 1NT. Now

when partner bids 2♦, the East hand comes alive but what can it bid? Most pairs chose 4♦ but I have an interesting bidding idea which some may be interested in adopting. What would a jump to 3♥ mean after 2♦? Unless you need the bid to show an invitational hand with Hearts, it should mean at least 10 cards in hearts and diamonds with a shortage in spades and a good hand. Even though the 3♥ bid is not good news for West, he should not give up on slam and knowing that partner is short in spades, he should bid 4♣. This suggested meaning of the 3♥ bid is especially useful if you play that the 2♦ bid could be a 3-card suit. Now 4♥ may well be in the picture.

Bd 19, Dlr S 5♦-1 S		N Andre van Niekerk Other table 5♦X-2 S																										
W Sue Botha ♠ 1052 ♥ A85 ♦ K9874 ♣ 84		John Bryant E ♠ KQJ94 ♥ J1043 ♦ – ♣ J975																										
Rose Duff S ♠ 6 ♥ K962 ♦ AQJ632 ♣ K3		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♠*</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>3♥*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			W	N	E	S					1♦	P	3♠*	P		3♥*	P	4♦	P		5♦	P	P	P		
	W	N	E	S																								
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P	4♦	P		5♦																								
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Rose Duff played this hand well in 5♦ to earn her side a swing. She got an unhelpful diamond lead and she immediately played a spade. When the defenders continued spades, she ruffed and drew trumps ending in dummy and ruffed the 3<sup>rd</sup> spade. She then played A♥ and a low heart ducking when East played low. West was now endplayed and had to allow declarer to make the K♣ or give a ruff and discard. One down undoubled was an excellent result earning her side 6imps. Note that E/W can make 4♠(it was bid and made at 3 tables).

**To Protect or Not Protect – that is the question**

<b>Board 18</b>	♠ A8	
<b>Dealer E</b>	♥ K42	
<b>NS Vul</b>	♦ 987	
	♣ K8532	
♠ QJ643		♠ 952
♥ AJ6		♥ Q1075
♦ K5		♦ AJ104
♣ QJ7		♣ 64
	♠ K107	
	♥ 983	
	♦ Q632	
	♣ A109	

After West opened 1♠ in third seat and East raised to 2. When this came round to the North hand, he was faced with a decision of whether to protect with a takeout double.

There were 4 considerations;

1. North has values in Spades
2. North does not have 4♥'s which partner will strain to bid
3. Partner is a passed hand
4. N/S are vulnerable

These 4 factors should have told North to pass 2♠

3 pairs doubled and following results were obtained

- a. 3♦ by E/W went down 3 for -300
- b. 3♦ by E/W went down 1 for -100 (after a misdefence)
- c. 3♠ by NS went down 1. The decision here, made by West, to compete to the 3 level was a serious error despite the fact that the West hand was maximum for his action thus far.
- d. 4 pairs went down 1 in 2♠. \

**Submitted by Bernard Donde**

## **Report back from World Bridge Games Buenos Aires October 2024**

**Submitted by Diana Balkin**

Sharon Izerel and I qualified in the SA Women's Trials to represent South Africa at the World Bridge Games in Buenos Aires in October 2024.

It was indeed an honour and a privilege. For this, we are both extremely grateful to the South African Bridge Federation for affording us this opportunity by paying the extremely high entrance fees for all 3 participating SA Teams, Open, Women and Mixed.

Sadly, all participants from SA had to pay all their own expenses as the SABF no longer offers any personal sponsorship. So, each and every participant from the 3 teams plus our Captain were self-funded at enormous personal cost. Fundraising events were organized to assist the players and we want to thank all those SABF members and others who contributed and helped with the fundraising – Thank you all for your kindness and support.

A big Thank you to Alon Apteker for arranging a discounted fare on SAA from which many of us benefitted. Thank you SAA.

Di Rosslee agreed at her own expense to be the captain of both the Women's and the Mixed Teams. This was a daunting task which she performed selflessly and admirably. Thank you!

We arrived in Buenos Aires a few days before the start of the tournament and had an opportunity to see the city and enjoy the many wonders of Argentinian culture – Tango dancing, a historic and beautiful city in extremely hot weather.

Unfortunately, the city is very spread out so the usual aspect of players all staying in an area close to each other was lost as we all stayed in different areas. We learnt to negotiate the Ubers, Taxis, Busses and Subways. It was relatively easy to get around the city both on foot and by transport and most players settled in quickly and well. The visible presence of police made it safe to walk, even alone, in the city.

The opening ceremony was held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at The Centro de Convenciones. There we were given our name tags which had to be worn at all times to permit entry to the venue. The opening ceremony was, as always, exciting and lovely albeit different from previous events. There was insufficient seating and no seats were reserved so that countries could sit together. They did however have a great Tango show and a lovely cocktail party followed.

Now to business.

Tuesday morning, bright and early, the players arrived at the venue. The event was played in many different rooms. The open team played 16 board matches, The Women's Team 12 Board Matches and the Mixed Team 10 Board Matches. This meant that all the SA teams played with different schedules and as a result, we saw each other only before and after play each day. This was very different from the previous events I have attended.

Each and every match was tough – no easy ones. Every day was difficult and a challenge. We won matches and we lost matches but we did the very best that we were able to do.

Sadly, none of the South African Teams reached the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. The Open and the Women's teams came close.

It seems that South Africans need to “ up our game “ to compete in the International arena . At the moment we are low down on the food chain.

The major question is ‘How do we do this?’

Many people have made some suggestions – some of which I would like to mention here.

- 1) The SABF should be proactive in arranging for more international matches for their players. Pairs who qualify for the team should commit, maybe in writing, to attend practice session regularly.
- 2) Trials should take place as early as possible in the annual calendar to allow time for pairs to practice for the main event.
- 3) The SABF should take a look at the format used for Trials and perhaps think of improving thereon.
  - a. The World Championships are Teams Events. Historically, pairs trials often lead to qualification of 1 or 2 weak pairs who may not even be practiced partnerships. This results in players having to play with pairs they may not have chosen themselves.
  - b. My strong view is that Trials should be Teams Trials of a 6 Man /Woman team. This means that the players a) get to play with whom they have chosen b) prevents any deals being made in advance of a 4-man team choosing another pair.
- 4) The SABF needs to appoint a captain for all teams who will be responsible for organizing the teams' practices and pre-tournament preparations and assisting with administrative functions at the event.
- 5) We are a small bridge playing community and we need to get the very best out of our players. This requires the SABF and SASCOC (through the SABF) to actively support and care for our players.