

Bulletin number 2 – SABF Mixed Teams November 2024

Results after 8/11 rounds

Overall scores			
Pos	No	Team	Score
1	2	DONDE	117.45
2	10	HINGLE	103.63
3	3	KAPREY	102.12
4	6	CAMPBELL	94.67
5	4	STERN	93.65
6	8	EBER	89.39
7	9	ALEXANDER	74.06
8	1	PINCUS	72.73
9	5	ZIMET	65.12
10	11	VAN NIEKERK	63.65
11	7	BEINART	55.58
12	12	INGERSENT	22.95

With 3 matches to go, the Donde team (that's me!) have a reasonable but not insurmountable lead over the Hingle and Kaprey teams.

Top Butler scores

Cross-IMPs					
Sort by: <input type="text" value="Score"/>					
Pos	Team	Pair	Average	Total	Bds
1	DONDE	Bernard Donde & Tas Nestoridis	+0.95	+1005.1 / 1056	96
2	ZIMET	Paul Reynolds & Lorraine Weers	+0.88	+233.5 / 264	24
3	EBER	Neville Eber & Val Bloom	+0.88	+933 / 1056	96
4	HINGLE	Vanessa Armstrong & Mark Oliff	+0.87	+917.8 / 1056	96
5	DONDE	Nicola Bateman & Larry Chemaly	+0.71	+752.5 / 1056	96
6	CAMPBELL	Diana Knowler & Wilf Sperry	+0.60	+635.8 / 1056	96
7	KAPREY	Kevin Smith & Merle Bracher	+0.51	+535.5 / 1056	96
8	PINCUS	Nancy Minwalla & Diniar Minwalla	+0.38	+401.5 / 1056	96
9	STERN	Jude Apteker & Zela Stern	+0.33	+345.5 / 1056	96
10	KAPREY	Imtiaz Kaprey & Jill Rabie	+0.33	+345.5 / 1056	96
11	STERN	John Bryant & Sue Botha	+0.28	+300.9 / 1056	96
12	HINGLE	Greg Hingle & Maureen Holroyd	+0.27	+280.3 / 1056	96
13	EBER	Christopher Bosenberg & Christopher Bosenberg	+0.18	+48 / 264	24

Board 6
Dealer E
EW Vul

♠ –	♠ A63	♠ QJ72
♥ A975	♥ Q8642	♥ KJ3
♦ KJ86	♦ 10	♦ AQ75
♣ AQ862	♣ K1054	♣ J7
	♠ K109854	
	♥ 10	
	♦ 9432	
	♣ 93	

This hand, from today, was interesting both from bidding and play points of view.

At some tables, after East opened 1♦, South bid 2♠ weak. West decided to show a game forcing hand with 3♠ and diamond support. When East bid 3NT, West had to guess whether to leave that or explore a diamond slam. Many chose

4♦ minorwood which I find difficult to understand. How does the number of aces partner holds help you to decide what contract to play in? Where are the 12 tricks and if partner shows 1 keycard as in this example, you don't know whether it is the A♠ or A♦. My overall impression is that South African players have developed blackwood mania (an often-fatal illness). If West decides to go beyond 3NT, the correct slam try is 4♣, a cue bid agreeing diamonds. The East hand is very poor and should now bid 5♦. (Sophisticated partnerships would play 4NT by East as natural – remember for some, 1♦ may be only a 3 card suit).

At one or 2 tables, after East bid 3NT, North decided to save in 4♠. East doubled and this should have been a strong warning to partner not to bid again as this double shows extreme wastage in spades and shortish diamonds. If East just had only a single spade stopper, he should pass 4♠ which is 100% forcing.

Some pairs stopped in 3NT, probably the best spot on this combination. South led his interior sequence and North won the ace and returned the suit. What should East play on the spade return? It looks natural to insert the Q or J♠ but this is wrong as you need to cut opponents' communication in spades which can be done by ducking the second round of spades completely. If South wins and continues spades, we can now safely take the club finesse for our ninth trick. If he doesn't cash the spades there are quite a few chances to make this contract. One declarer, who went up with the spade queen, managed to make the contract after South ducked the Queen, by taking the heart finesse into the safe hand rather than the club finesse.

Those who got to 6♦ went 2 down, 5♦ was 1 down, 3NT went 2 down often but made once on a spade lead. Bizarrely, 2 pairs lead their singleton heart which did not paralyze declarer. A singleton lead against NT has to be one of the worst possible leads, especially if your partner has not bid the suit.

Lead Partner's Suit?

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with two hands and a score sheet.

Hand 1 (North): ♠ Q72, ♥ AQ543, ♦ QJ102, ♣ 2. Contract: 6♥ = N.

Hand 2 (South): ♠ KJ10864, ♥ 9, ♦ 95, ♣ K1043. Contract: 6♥ = N.

Hand 3 (North): ♠ A3, ♥ KJ72, ♦ AK6, ♣ QJ85. Contract: 6♥ = N.

Hand 4 (South): ♠ 95, ♥ 1086, ♦ 8743, ♣ A976. Contract: 4♥ +1 N.

Score Sheet:

	W	N	E	S
	1♥	P		2NT*
3♠	P	P		4NT
P	5♣*	P		6♥
P	P	P		

When partner bids solo at the 3 level after opponents have shown game going values, you are well advised to lead his suit or else be ready to apologise.

At this table, Kevin Smith showed how to punish his opponent's opening lead of the A♣ followed by a spade switch. He won the spade, ruffed a club, A♥, trump to dummy, ruffed another club, diamond to the king, trump dummies last club, diamond to the A, draw trumps and claim. He made 3 ruffs in his hand, 4 heart tricks, 4 diamond tricks and 1 spade trick = 12. A dummy reversal – very well spotted and executed.

If we look at the score sheet below as many as 8 pairs managed to make 12 tricks in hearts. 3 of these made it on the A♣ lead and 5 made 12

tricks on a spade lead. It requires careful defence to beat 5♠ after the spade lead. Most declarers drew only 2 rounds of trumps and then played 4 rounds of diamonds pitching their losing spade in dummy. The defence now just has to make sure that East wins the first club trick and draws the last trump. Larry Chemaly and Nicky Bateman found that defence – well done. The other declarer in 6♥ going down, drew 3 rounds of trumps leaving no chance for a make.

So can you make 6♥ legitimately on a spade lead? Yes, but you have to draw only 1 round of trumps and then play 4 rounds of diamonds, which is a double dummy action.

Note the bidding at this table and many others where that dreaded disease, blackwood mania, came to the fore. To go blackwood with 2 potential club losers cannot be advised. A 4♦ cue bid might get you there if partner appreciates the value of his singleton club.

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Brian Pincus & Diana Balkin	Martin Grunder & Erica Zimet	6♥ = N	♠ 9	980	+8.55 -8.55
Kevin Smith & Merle Bracher	Jennifer Adams & Duncan Craggs	6♥ = N	♣ A	980	+8.55 -8.55
Paul Reynolds & Lorraine Weers	Nancy Minwalla & Diniar Minwalla	6♥ = N	♠ 5	980	+8.55 -8.55
Andre van Niekerk & Rose Duff	Diana Knowler & Wilf Sperry	6♥ = N	♠ 9	980	+8.55 -8.55
John Barlow & Linda Campbell	Merle Modlin & Peter Ward	5♥ +1 N	♣ A	480	-1.82 +1.82
David Beinart & Carol Stanton	Vanessa Armstrong & Mark Oliff	5♥ +1 N	♠ 9	480	-1.82 +1.82
Neville Eber & Val Bloom	Maureen Narunsky & Michael Alexander	4♥ +2 N	♠ 9	480	-1.82 +1.82
Glen Holman & Michele Alexander	Janne Masojada & Hennie Fick	5♥ +1 N	♣ A	480	-1.82 +1.82
Bernard Donde & Tas Nestoridis	John Bryant & Sue Botha	4♥ +1 N	♠ 9	450	-2.36 +2.36
Myron Elias & Deirdre Ingersent	Jill Rabie & Imtiaz Kaprey	4♥ +1 N	♠ 9	450	-2.36 +2.36
Jude Apteker & Zela Stern	Nicola Bateman & Larry Chemaly	6♥ -1 N	♠ 9	50	-11.09 +11.09
Greg Hingle & Maureen Holroyd	Jocelyn Ashberg & Harold Bernstein	6♥ -1 N	♠ 9	50	-11.09 +11.09

Bidding Theory

Board 3	♠ J1084	
Dealer S	♥ 6	
EW Vul	♦ AQ2	
	♣ AJ652	
♠ K52		♠ A73
♥ 94		♥ AKJ85
♦ 109864		♦ J3
♣ 1093		♣ Q74
	♠ Q96	
	♥ Q10732	
	♦ K75	
	♣ K8	

I believe it is a real weakness in the systems that most of us play when we open 1NT with a 5-card major. Most of us do it routinely because of the difficulties in catching up if we open 1 of a major. However, when overcalling, bidding a major should definitely take

precedence over calling 1NT. There are no problems in describing your hand later after this approach. If partner passes your overcall, you have missed nothing. There is no urgency in showing 15-17 balanced as an overcaller and it much more important to bid your 5-card major. With a 5-card minor, I'm happy to overcall 1NT.

So much for theory!

The above hand shows another danger of overcalling 1NT. After 2 passes, South opened 1♣ and East bid 1NT. When this was doubled, they 'escaped' to 2♥. South was delighted to double this for an easy +800. A 1♥ overcall would save about 300 points if opponents elect to double you but most South players preferred to bid 1NT letting E/W off the hook. I was pleased to see that most East players elected to bid 1♥.

Weak 2 ♦ Anyone?

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> ✕ pers 🔒 </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> Bd 20, Dlr W 6♦ = N </div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"> W Merle Bracher </div>	♠ J4 ♥ J108 ♦ A95432 ♣ 76	N Bernard Donde												
♠ A1076 ♥ Q752 ♦ 1076 ♣ 42		Other table 5♣ +1 S												
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;"> 0 0 </div> <div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> < > ↻ </div> </div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;"> Tas Nestoridis S </div>	♠ 5 ♥ A94 ♦ KQJ ♣ AKQJ108	♠ KQ9832 ♥ K63 ♦ 8 ♣ 953												
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;">W</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♦*</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">6♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">P</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	2♦*	2♠	6♦	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S											
P	2♦*	2♠	6♦											
P	P	P												

The weak 2 ♦ convention has lost its popularity to the Multi but on the above hand, it worked like a charm.

I am not proud of my 2 ♦ opening on the North cards, vulnerable in second seat. The only excuse I have is that I may have misread the vulnerability. Tas had absolutely no problem bidding 6 ♦ after this start. She didn't bother to go blackwood as she knew I wouldn't bid a weak 2 with 2 aces or with a suit headed by the 10.

I think we may be the only pair playing a weak 2 ♦ and were the only pair to reach this unassailable 6 ♦.

Too Many Finesses

Bd 13, Dlr N 3NT+1 E		N Myron Elias Other table 3♣-1 W																										
W Val Bloom ♠ K96 ♥ Q65 ♦ 876 ♣ Q1085		Neville Eber E ♠ J72 ♥ AKJ83 ♦ J92 ♣ 64																										
♠ Q4 ♥ 109 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AKJ732		Deirdre Ingersent S ♠ A10853 ♥ 742 ♦ K1053 ♣ 9																										
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	W	N	E	S																								
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P	P	P	P	P																								

Neville Eber, sitting East, did well to bid 3NT on the auction shown. He then went on to play it well. The opening spade lead by South was ducked to his Jack. He now had the option of taking the club finesse or the heart finesse for his contract. Which is the correct one to take?

Neville cashed the A♣ and K♣ to see if the queen would fall and then took a first-round heart finesse and came home with 1♠, 5♥, 1♦ and 2♣ = 9 tricks. By declining to take the Club finesse

he gave himself 2 chances to make the contract – either the Q♣ doubleton or the heart finesse. In the endgame, Neville couldn't resist playing the J♦ which South covered with the king giving him 10 tricks. I don't think he would have finessed the diamond if South didn't cover. Another myth exposed – 'cover an honour with an honour'.