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# South African Trials

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Bulletin: Number 1  
Editor: Deirdre Ingersent

Our First Bulletin starts with a welcome to the SABF Trials for the 16th World Bridge Games which in 2024 are being staged in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The registration and Opening ceremony are scheduled for October 21st with play commencing the following day and it continues until November 3rd which will see both the end of play and the Closing Ceremony. It is an exciting place to be - Argentina's big cosmopolitan city, the name is Spanish for "fair winds" or "good airs" - and enjoys a good temperate climate the whole year with temperatures around the 22 -25 centigrade mark expected at that time of year. The city itself is a good mix of old (it was founded in 1536) and new modern buildings.

The event itself is most prestigious and attracts a large entry as it is open to all countries who are registered with the World Bridge Federation. There are no qualifying rounds so about 50 - 60 nations are expected to be there playing in the various categories as each nation is allowed one entry in each category and some, the larger countries like the USA, are permitted two teams. It is held every 4 years, in line with the Olympic Games, and although not one of their sports, it is considered the Bridge Olympics!

The Open and Women's Trials, held first, run concurrently from Sunday April 14th to Friday 19th April with morning and afternoon sessions each day. Players enter and compete as pairs in Open, Women's and/or Mixed Trials (which will be held later on) using Bridge Base Online. Steve Bunker has been appointed as the SA Trials Tournament Organizer and Tournament Director. The actual competition in Buenos Aires will be run as a Teams Event and the format for that is being revised and is not known at present.

The SABF have opened the Trials to all registered SABF players. There is no particular high grading needed as South Africa is essentially a small bridge community and it is felt that anyone who wants the experience and fun of competing against the world's top players should be able to try out. The large entry for the Open, 11 pairs, and also 11 pairs for the Women's, shows that this has been a popular move.

We are pleased to see our entry has attracted participants from all around South Africa and we wish everyone GOOD LUCK!

***Deirdre***

## Who has entered the open and women's trials?

### OPEN TRIALS - ENTRIES LIST

Player 1		Player 2	
Name	BBO Name	Name	BBO Name
ALEXANDER, Michael	treetops38	DER KINDEREN, Anton	banditos
APTEKER, Alon	alonap	GOWER, Craig	craigy52
APTEKER, Noah	noahapteke	STEPHENS, Rob	drowzee
CRUISE, Andrew	cruisey	BURMAN, Saul	kingzlot
EBER, Neville	eebs	FICK, Hennie	hcbfick
GRANT, James	goldbar	CHEMALY, Larry	larryc777
HOLMAN, Glen	glensa	BEINART, David	fatcat4399
KAPREY, Imtiaz	imtiaz1	REYNOLDS, Paul	horace1
KEET, Duncan	dunx	APTEKER, Jude	judeap
PINCUS, Brian	bkpsc	MINWALLA, Diniar	diniar
SMITH, Kevin	kgsmith	CASTELEIN, Chris	castelein

TOTAL: 11 Pairs

### WOMEN TRIALS - ENTRIES LIST

Player 1		Player 2	
Name	BBO Name	Name	BBO Name
BALDERSON, Peta	peta_b	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	frankiej
BALKIN, Diana	deebee2	IZEREL, Sharon	shai007
BATEMAN, Nicola	nicolap	BLOOM, Val	valfb
FOADEN, Jennifer	foaden	KENNY, Renee	kangy
GRUNDER, Carol	cassandrax	RABIE, Jill	jillyrabz
HEWITT, Bev	hewey7	CROSSE, Trish	trishc
LANG, Sharon	sharrie	SORENSEN, Lotte	lvsrn
MASOJADA, Janne	sweetpea50	RAWSON, Tanya	tan 18
MUTCH, Mary	marykins	ZIMET, Erica	rix181
PENLINGTON, Dianne	dip53	DORNON, Glynis	glynisd
STERN, Zela	sternz	STANTON, Carol	carol2007

TOTAL: 11 Pairs

## Format of the trials

11 pairs in each section will play a complete round robin of 12 board matches. Matches will be scored using cross imping and the final IMP differences will be converted into Victory points (VP's) with a maximum of 20 VP's for each match. A 12 board WBF continuous conversion tables will be used. At the end of the first round robin, the pairs lying in positions 9 to 11 will be eliminated. There will be a carryover of 75% of the VP's scored in the 1st round robin to the second round robin. The remaining 8 pairs will complete a second complete round robin of 16 board matches with the same scoring method. Pairs qualifying in positions 1-3 will be invited to represent South Africa in the upcoming World Bridge games to be held in October.

The trials will be played online using the BBO platform. However, all players will be monitored at designated centres. In exceptional circumstances, player will be allowed to play from home with suitable camera technology installed allowing for remote monitoring. Unfortunately, no kibbitzing will be allowed as this has led to widespread cheating in the past. Results will be posted regularly on the SABF website. Follow the link on the front page or under the results tab.

## How will the event be scored – explaining cross imping

Cross-imp scoring will be used for the trials. In cross-imping, your table result is impeded against every other table in the field, and the total is then averaged (i.e. divided by the number of results) to calculate the imps you earn on the board.

This is best explained by looking at a real-life example of a 6-table field. This calculation will apply to the two pairs sitting at Table 3 where NS scored +420.

Table	Contract / result	Score		Imps
1	4H/N making 11	+450	$+420 - 450 = -30$	-1
2	3H/N making 11	+200	$+420 - 200 = +220$	+6
3	4H/N making 10	+420		
4	3H /N making 11	+200	$+420 - 200 = +220$	+6
5	4H/N making 9	-50	$+420 + 50 = +470$	+10
6	4HX/N making 10	+590	$+420 - 590 = -170$	-5
			<b>Total</b>	<b>+16</b>
			<b>Divided by 5</b>	<b>3.2</b>

So the NS pair at Table 3 earns 3.2 imps on this board, and EW earns the opposite i.e. -3.2. The same calculation is performed for each other result, so for the pairs at Table 4 where NS made +200, this is what happens.

Table	Contract / result	Score		Imps
1	4H/N making 11	+450	$+200 - 450 = -250$	-6
2	3H/N making 11	+200	$+200 - 200 = 0$	0
3	4H/N making 10	+420	$+200 - 420 = -220$	-6
4	3H /N making 11	+200		
5	4H/N making 9	-50	$+200 + 50 = +250$	+6
6	4HX/N making 10	+590	$+200 - 590 = -390$	-9
			<b>Total</b>	<b>-15</b>
			<b>Divided by 5</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

So the NS pair at Table 4 earns -3.0 imps on this board, and EW earns opposite i.e. +3.0.

Note that, unlike in a usual team's match, the IMP's earned can be fractions.

At the end of each match, the IMP's won and lost are tallied and then converted into victory points using the following scales for 12 and 16 board matches shown below.

### **WBF Continuous VP Scales**

<b>IMPS DIFF</b>	<b>Qualifiers</b>	<b>Finals</b>
	<b>12-board</b>	<b>16-board</b>
-	10.00	10.00
1	10.36	10.31
2	10.71	10.61
3	11.05	10.91
4	11.38	11.20
5	11.70	11.48
6	12.01	11.76
7	12.31	12.03
8	12.61	12.29
9	12.90	12.55
10	13.18	12.80
11	13.45	13.04
12	13.71	13.28
13	13.97	13.52
14	14.22	13.75
15	14.46	13.97
16	14.70	14.18
17	14.93	14.39
18	15.15	14.60
19	15.37	14.80
20	15.58	15.00
21	15.79	15.19
22	15.99	15.38
23	16.18	15.56
24	16.37	15.74
25	16.55	15.92
26	16.73	16.09
27	16.91	16.26
28	17.08	16.42
29	17.24	16.58
30	17.40	16.73

<b>IMPS DIFF</b>	<b>Qualifiers</b>	<b>Finals</b>
	<b>12-board</b>	<b>16-board</b>
31	17.56	16.88
32	17.71	17.03
33	17.86	17.17
34	18.00	17.31
35	18.14	17.45
36	18.28	17.59
37	18.41	17.72
38	18.54	17.85
39	18.66	17.97
40	18.78	18.09
41	18.90	18.21
42	19.02	18.33
43	19.13	18.44
44	19.24	18.55
45	19.34	18.66
46	19.44	18.77
47	19.54	18.87
48	19.64	18.97
49	19.74	19.07
50	19.83	19.16
51	19.92	19.25
52	20.00	19.34
53		19.43
54		19.52
55		19.61
56		19.69
57		19.77
58		19.85
59		19.93
60		20.00

## A couple of hands to whet your appetites

1

D	8	N JenAAAA	W	N	E	S
		♠ 73	4♣	X	4♦	X
		♥ 754	5♦	P	6♥	P
		♦ J74	P	P		
		♣ KJ632				
W	InTime		E	tarankaur		
♠	6		♠	AKQ9842		
♥	AQJ10932		♥	6		
♦	A		♦	985		
♣	Q954		♣	A7		
		S Sammy147				
		♠ J105				
		♥ K8				
		♦ KQ10632				
		♣ 108				
					6♥ E	NS: 0 EW: 0

At a local BBO team's event, Rose Duff (East) and Andre van Niekerk (West) who have entered the Mixed teams trials had the excellent auction shown above to reach the odds-on 6H slam earning them 11imps.

They were playing a version of Namyats whereby an opening bid of 4 of a minor (by west) showed either a solid suit pre-empt in the corresponding major or a semisolid suit with an outside ace. East enquired and found partner with the ace of diamonds with semisolid hearts and judged well to play in 6H rather than 6S. This made easily on the 4D lead.

Very well done!

## 2 Suit Combinations

A sine qua non of an expert declarer player is his knowledge of how to handle various suit combinations.

However, it is fairly uncommon to come across a hand where the correct handling of a particular suit combination is pure in that there are no clues from the bidding or opening lead as to the location of critical cards. This hand came up at a recent local team's event when South got to play 4H with no opposition bidding and West lead the jack of spades.

N
♠ 73
♥ A9842
♦ J1032
♣ J3
S
♠ AQ4
♥ Q103
♦ AK8
♣ A986

There are no spade losers, 1 potential diamond loser and 1 club loser. We want to play the heart optimally to avoid 2 losers. What is the best way to handle this suit combination with no clues from the bidding or play.

- a. Ace of heart and then low and guess whether to play the queen or the 10 if east follows low?
- b. Lead the 10 of heart. If it loses to the jack, finesse the queen
- c. Lead the queen of hearts and if it loses to the king, finesse the 10 of hearts

Before reading on, decide how you would play the heart suit?

In fact, the recommended line is to finesse twice up to dummy (lines b or c). Leading the queen has the small advantage of picking up a singleton Jack in the East hand and not losing any hearts. Doing it this way avoids any guess compared to playing the Ace and leading low towards the queen and 10.

(You will have a guess whenever East has JXX or KXX and you will get it wrong 50% of the time). It also picks up KJXX in the west hand. KJXX in the east hand will not be picked up using line A. It only loses when the King and Jack are in the East hand. Line A loses when the K and Jack are in the West hand.

Well, how did you play on the hand?

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; background-color: #d3d3d3;">6</div> <span style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-left: 5px;">D</span> </div>	N	♠ 73	♥ A9842	♦ J1032	♣ J3																				
	W	♠ J10965	♥ 76	♦ Q65	♣ KQ2																				
	E	♠ K82	♥ KJ5	♦ 974	♣ 10754																				
	S	♠ AQ4	♥ Q103	♦ AK8	♣ A986																				
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>3♣</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>				W	N	E	S	P	1♦	P	1NT	P	2♦	P	2♥	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	4♥	P	P
W	N	E	S																						
P	1♦	P	1NT																						
P	2♦	P	2♥																						
P	2NT	P	3♣																						
P	4♥	P	P																						
		4♥ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																							

If you played correctly, that is 1 down (you lose 2 hearts, 1 club and 1 diamond)

If you played incorrectly (line A) you make 10 tricks easily.

Sometimes virtue has to be its own reward.

How will you play this combination next time?

If you are interested in studying *ALL* possible suit combinations in a bridge hand, I recommend the monumental work by J.M Roudinesco "The Dictionary of Suit Combinations".

Good luck everyone. May all your finesses succeed when everyone else's fail!

***Bernard Donde***