



HANGING IN!

We are only 16 boards away from the conclusion of the SA Trials. In the Open Event it is Alon Apteker and Craig Gower out front with Rob Stephens and Noah Apteker in 2nd and Hennie Fick and Neville Eber in 3rd, all pretty close, with dark horses Andrew Cruise and Saul Burman creeping up behind. In the Women's it is the same three partnerships but Nicky Bateman and Val Bloom are in 1st position (with a little bit of a cushion) and Glynis Dornon and Dianne Pennington are close on the heels of Diana Balkin and Sharon Izerel who are lying 2nd. ALL TO PLAY FOR!

Just two tips today for us average club players.

The first one is the importance of knowing and understanding your partner as regards his/ her bidding style. Please remember here quite a few new partnerships are participating. Is partner always on the aggressive side (even when vulnerable!) or a more reticent bidder? Is steadiness partner's middle name or known more for a certain flair? Does partner exercise caution when vulnerable as mistakes cost dearly.

The second is although a good system and solid conventions understood and agreed on by both parties are very important, many hands still need good judgement which is what separates a Provincial or National player from your average Club player.

Submitted by Deirdre Ingersent

OPEN FINALS - Results by Round

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	C/O	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6	
			VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Alon Apteker & Craig Gower	1	148.39	75.25	9	12.55	10	12.80	10	12.80	16	14.18	8	12.29	-5	8.52
Noah Apteker & Rob Stephens	2	144.17	80.81	-1	9.69	-10	7.20	16	14.18	8	12.29	17	14.39	-17	5.61
Neville Eber & Hennie Fick	3	140.19	75.62	4	11.20	-8	7.71	30	16.73	4	11.20	-14	6.25	5	11.48
Andrew Cruise & Saul Burman	4	136.18	60.47	4	11.20	8	12.29	36	17.59	12	13.28	-11	6.96	17	14.39
Brian Pincus & Diniar Minwalla	5	109.35	46.57	1	10.31	24	15.74	-30	3.27	-16	5.82	11	13.04	18	14.60
Duncan Keet & Jude Apteker	6	101.14	53.53	-9	7.45	-24	4.26	-36	2.41	-8	7.71	14	13.75	7	12.03
Imtiaz Kaprey & Paul Reynolds	7	98.60	58.88	-4	8.80	-26	3.91	-10	7.20	-4	8.80	-17	5.61	-18	5.40
James Grant & Larry Chemaly	8	91.99	38.88	-4	8.80	26	16.09	-16	5.82	-12	6.72	-8	7.71	-7	7.97

Fri 19-Apr	10:00	7	1	PINCUS, Brian	MINWALLA, Diniar	GRANT, James	CHEMALY, Larry
			2	APTEKER, Alon	GOWER, Craig	CRUISE, Andrew	BURMAN, Saul
			3	APTEKER, Noah	STEPHENS, Rob	EBER, Neville	FICK, Hennie
			4	KEET, Duncan	APTEKER, Jude	KAPREY, Imtiaz	REYNOLDS, Paul

An exciting finish for the open is expected. The top 4 pairs have only 12 VP's separating them. Andrew Cruise and Saul Burman are lying 4th but are less than 4VP's off the pace. What makes it really nerve-racking is that the top 4 pairs are playing each other in the final round. Just about any outcome is possible.

WOMEN'S FINALS - Results by Round

Players	Rank	TOTAL VPs	C/O	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6	
			VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs	IMPS	VPs
Nicola Bateman & Val Bloom	1	151.38	72.32	-3	9.09	40	18.09	-33	2.83	15	13.97	54	19.52	23	15.56
Diana Balkin & Sharon Izerel	2	138.13	73.32	8	12.29	15	13.97	6	11.76	-9	7.45	-29	3.42	25	15.92
Dianne Penlington & Glynis Dornon	3	134.55	62.48	-8	7.71	0	10.00	33	17.17	21	15.19	19	14.80	-10	7.20
Carol Grunder & Jill Rabie	4	121.19	59.50	-10	7.20	-25	4.08	20	15.00	-15	6.03	29	16.58	10	12.80
Sharon Lang & Lotte Sorensen	5	118.53	60.46	3	10.91	25	15.92	-6	8.24	-3	9.09	6	11.76	-38	2.15
Jennifer Foaden & Renee Kenny	6	109.27	46.63	0	10.00	0	10.00	6	11.76	9	12.55	-54	0.48	38	17.85
Peta Balderson & Jennifer Gautschi	7	107.77	64.63	10	12.80	-40	1.91	-6	8.24	3	10.91	-19	5.20	-25	4.08
Bev Hewitt & Trish Crosse	8	91.19	52.67	0	10.00	-15	6.03	-20	5.00	-21	4.81	-6	8.24	-23	4.44

Fri 19-Apr	10:00	7	1	LANG, Sharon	SORENSEN, Lotte	PENLINGTON, Dianne	DORNON, Glynis
			2	BALDERSON, Peta	GAUTSCHI, Jennifer	HEWITT, Bev	CROSSE, Trish
			3	BATEMAN, Nicola	BLOOM, Val	BALKIN, Diana	IZEREL, Sharon
			4	GRUNDER, Carol	RABIE, Jill	FOADEN, Jennifer	KENNY, Renee

In the Women's event, the top 3 pairs have broken away from the field. Nicky Bateman and Val Bloom cannot be caught as they are 30+ VP's ahead of 4th place. Di Penlington and Glynis Dornon are lying 3rd and have a 13 VP advantage over Carol Grunder and Jill Rabie who are lying 4th. However, they are playing 5th lying Sharon Lang and Lotte Sorensen. They have a 16 VP cushion so they can afford to lose 18-2 and still be ahead. They need to score a minimum of about 7 VP's to guarantee qualification. Val Bloom and Nicky Bateman are playing Sharon Izerel and Diana Balkin who are lying second. Diana and Sharon only need to score 4 VP's to ensure that they qualify. Note that very few matches in this final have produced big wins over 16-4 meaning that the current 3 top pairs are highly likely to maintain their current positions.

Andrew Cruise (Cruisy) and Saul (KingZlot) had a good day today especially in their match against Robert Stephens and Noah Apteker that has brought them within striking distance of qualifying. We will look at some of their hands.

D 13	N cruisey ♠ KQ753 ♥ AJ5 ♦ J98 ♣ 74	W P P P	N P 2♦ P	E 1♦ X P	S 1♥ 2♥
W larryc777 ♠ 8642 ♥ K42 ♦ 54 ♣ 10963		E goldbar ♠ AJ ♥ 63 ♦ AKQ103 ♣ KQ52			
	S KingZlot ♠ 109 ♥ Q10987 ♦ 762 ♣ AJ8				2♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

South's 1♥ overall would not meet many players requirements for a vulnerable overcall. The hand has a low point count, worst possible shape (2533), may induce partner to lead the A♥ if N/S do not buy the contract and does not consume any bidding space. On the positive side, the suit has very good internal solidity making it unlikely that opponent will have a penalty double of the overcall. Despite all these negatives, the overcall was highly successful when a favourable lie of the cards, allowed Saul to make his contract.

2♥ making was worth 6 imps.

#95863 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 4					2/8	0.34	12.00		
1	2024-04-18 11:25	cruisey	KingZlot	goldbar	larryc777	2♥S=	110	6.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 11:03	imtiazi1	horace1	eebs	Hcbfick	2♣E+1	-110	-2.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 11:20	bkpsc	diniar	alonap	craigy52	3♣W=	-110	-2.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 11:15	NoahApteke	drowzee	Dunx	judeap	1NE+1	-120	-2.00	Movie or Lin

D 1	N NoahApteke	W	N	E	S
	♠ A5 ♥ KQ75 ♦ KJ97542 ♣	3NT	1♦ P	1♠ P	P P
W KingZlot		E cruisey			
♠ KQ ♥ 98 ♦ AQ6 ♣ K96532		♠ 108762 ♥ A64 ♦ 108 ♣ AJ10			
	S drowzee				
	♠ J943 ♥ J1032 ♦ 3 ♣ Q874				
		3NT W		NS: 0	EW: 0

Another very aggressive overcall by Andrew on a poor suit with poor shape won all the marbles when Saul made a very aggressive 3NT bid. When Noah led a 4th highest diamond and the club suit came in easily for 6 tricks, Saul had no problems wrapping up 10 tricks.

The auction was duplicated by Jude Apteker and Duncan Keet.

Making 3NT was worth 6 imps

1	2024-04-18 15:36	NoahApteke	drowzee	cruisey	KingZlot	3NW+1	430	6.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 15:36	goldbar	larryc777	Dunx	judeap	3NW+1	430	6.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 15:39	eeps	Hcbfick	alonap	craigy524	4♥S-3	150	-1.33	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 15:43	bkpsc	diniar	imtiazi	horace1	5♣xW-2	-300	-11.33	Movie or Lin

#96137 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 6							1/8	0.48	38.33
1	2024-04-18 15:38	nicolap	valfb	hewey7	trishc	4♥N-3	150	6.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 15:37	sharrie	lvsm	foaden	kangy	5♥S-2	100	4.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 15:36	deebee2	Shai007	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	3♠E-1	-50	0.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 15:36	dip53	glynisd	cassandrax	JillyRabz	4♥S+1	-450	-10.67	Movie or Lin

In the Women's, only 1 pair overcalled 1♠ but did not reach 3NT. Note that heart contracts by N/S made 7, 9 or 11 tricks Double dummy analysis shows that heart contracts should make 8 tricks on a spade or club lead by West. The key to the defence lies in forcing the North hand to ruff clubs. This prevents declarer from making diamond tricks.

D 13	N NoahApteke ♠ KJ1086 ♥ 1082 ♦ K32 ♣ 32	W N E S P P 1♦ P 2♦ P 3♦ P 5♦ P P P
	W KingZlot ♠ A9 ♥ 96 ♦ AQ1098 ♣ AK87	E cruisey ♠ 53 ♥ AK3 ♦ J764 ♣ QJ54
		5♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0


Saul made an excellent decision to bid to 5♦ rather than try for 3NT when Andrew opened a light 1♦ with 11 HCP with the East hand. 5♦ was an easy make whereas 3NT goes down on a spade lead.

#95867 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 6					2/8	0.34	17.00	
1	2024-04-18 16:44	goldbar	larryc777	Dunx judeap	3NE+2	660	9.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 16:52	NoahApteke	drowzee	cruisey	KingZlot	5♦E=	600	7.33 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 16:36	eebs	Hcbfick	alonap	craigy52	3NW-1	-100	-8.33 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:50	bkpsc	diniar	imtiaz1	horace1	3NW-1	-100	-8.33 Movie or Lin

This was worth 7.33imps when the field got to 3NT. At one table it was played by East attracting a heart lead which made 3NT easy to make.

1	2024-04-18 17:03	sharrie	lvsrn	foaden	kangy	5♦E=	600	8.00 Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 16:54	dip53	glynisd	cassandrax	JillyRabz	5♦E=	600	8.00 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 16:58	nicolap	valfb	hewey7	trishc	3NW-1	-100	-8.00 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:54	deebie2	Shai007	peta_b	FRANKIEJ	6♦E-1	-100	-8.00 Movie or Lin

In the Women's, only 1 pair got to the doomed 3NT on a spade lead. Two pairs, Jenny Foaden and Renee Kenny, Carol Grunder and Jill Rabie, had good auctions to reach 5♦ and were rewarded with 8imps. Note that 6♦ is almost equally as good as 3NT with both contracts needing the diamond finesse. Peta Balderson and Jenny Gautschi were a little unlucky to lose 8imps.V

	N NoahApteke ♠ AJ105 ♥ Q852 ♦ 9642 ♣ A	W N E S P 1♥ P 1♣ P 2♠ P 3NT P P P
	W KingZlot ♠ K6 ♥ 10963 ♦ K1073 ♣ K104	E cruisey ♠ 98743 ♥ KJ7 ♦ Q ♣ J985
	S drowzee ♠ Q2 ♥ A4 ♦ AJ85 ♣ Q7632	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

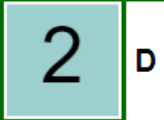
We return to our theme regarding close game tries after partner shows a balanced hand. In Noah's defence for his 2♠ game try showing 4-4 in the majors, holdings such as AJ10X are often under-valued. On the downside the singleton A♣ in partner's suit does not have full value and is unlikely to combine well with partner's hand. I'm sure the vulnerability was just too tempting. Even though Robert (South) has a 13 HCP and a 5-card suit, his clubs are poor with no intermediates and he has no fit with either of partner's suits. He, therefore, should have rejected the try. This led to a contract that had almost no play. One down was worth 6.67 imps to Andrew and Saul.

Neville Eber accurately judged that the North hand was not worth a game try.

#95867 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 6					2/8	0.34	17.00
1	2024-04-18 16:37	NoahApteke	drowzee	cruisey KingZlot	3NS-1	100	5.67 Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 16:25	eeps	Hcbfick	alonap craigy52	1NS=	-90	-1.00 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 16:29	goldbar	larryc777	Dunx judeap	2NS=	-120	-2.33 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:33	bkpsc	diniar	imtiazi1 horace1	3♦S+1	-130	-2.33 Movie or Lin

#96137 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 6					1/8	0.48	38.33
1	2024-04-18 16:45	sharrie	lvsm	foaden kangy	2NS-1	100	2.00 Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 16:33	dip53	glynisd	cassandrax JillyRabz	3NN-1	100	2.00 Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 16:33	deebie2	Shai007	peta_b FRANKIEJ	3NN-1	100	2.00 Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:37	nicolap	valfb	hewey7 trishc	2NS+1	-150	-6.00 Movie or Lin

None of the Women could resist making a game try with the North hand. Double dummy analysis shows that 7 tricks is the limit of the hand. I stand by my opinion that you need 12 HCP to make a game try without a 5-card suit when partner shows 12-14 balanced.

	N NoahApteke ♠ AQJ10 ♥ K8 ♦ QJ109764 ♣	W N E S P 2♦ P P 1♥ P 2♠ P P 2♥ P 4♣ P P 3♥ P 4♥ P P 4♦
	W judeap ♠ K4 ♥ J642 ♦ 53 ♣ KQ873	E Dunx ♠ 7532 ♥ 7 ♦ K82 ♣ AJ1092
	S drowzee ♠ 986 ♥ AQ10953 ♦ A ♣ 654	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

This hand demonstrated a difference in hand evaluation between the Open and the Women's pairs.

In the Open, the pairs judged well not to bid higher than 4♥. I approve of the auction shown above where Noah issued a slam try of 4♣, inferentially agreeing hearts. Robert was happy to cooperate with a return cue bid of 4♦ and Noah did not fall into the trap previously seen in other matches by launching into blackwood. He signed off in 4♥. He judged that making 6♥ would need very good cards from partner and if partner could not bid over 4♥, 12 tricks would be hard to come by. He made this assessment by anticipating a club lead. He would now be stuck in dummy and unless Robert had both the K♠, AQ♥ and a diamond honour, there would be no play for slam. Even if partner holds these golden cards, there may be a problem of dealing with any club losers in partner's hand without giving up the lead. Therefore, partner may need to have the A♠ as well. With all these cards, partner would have no problem bidding on after 4♥. In their methods, South had not limited his hand and therefore making the 4C cue bid was essential but the hand was worth no more.

I believe that the transition from an advanced to an expert player cannot occur until one develops the skill of being able to "play" the hand during the bidding.

None of the N/S pairs in the open bid higher than 4♥ showing good evaluation and visualization of the two hands.

In contrast, in the Women's, 2 pairs went to 5♥ or 6♥. 6♥ had no play. 5♥ was difficult to make on a club lead but succeeded when both the K♠ and K♦ were well placed.

One pair in the women's made a serious but instructive error by treating her hand as a weak 2♥ and opened a multi 2♦ which partner unexpectedly passed. I think it is money in the bank to never open a weak 2 (or equivalent bid) with 2 aces in first or second positions.

#95863 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 4					3/8	0.24	7.67	
1	2024-04-18 10:09	imtiiaz1	horace1	eebs Hcbfick	5♦N+1	620	2.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 10:16	NoahApteke	drowzee	Dunx judeap	4♥S=	620	2.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 10:19	cruisey	KingZlot	goldbar larryc777	5♣xW-3	500	-2.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 10:12	bkpsc	diniar	alonap craigy52	5♣xW-3	500	-2.00	Movie or Lin

#96131 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 4					2/8	0.34	15.00	
1	2024-04-18 10:20	sharrie	lvsmn	peta_b FRANKIEJ	4♥S+2	680	8.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 10:26	nicolap	valfb	cassandrax JillyRabz	5♥S=	650	7.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 10:18	hewey7	trishc	dip53 glynisd	2♦S+4	170	-4.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 10:25	foaden	kangy	deebie2 Shai007	6♥S-2	-200	-11.67	Movie or Lin

D	N	W	N	E	S
5	♠ A8752 ♥ 43 ♦ KQ93 ♣ 97	♠ 4 ♥ Q107 ♦ 108765 ♣ AQ108	♠ P ♥ 4♠ ♦ P ♣ P	♠ 1♣ ♥ 5♣ ♦ P ♣ P	♠ 2♠ ♥ P ♦ P ♣ P
W	S	E			
♠ 4 ♥ Q107 ♦ 108765 ♣ AQ108	♠ QJ10963 ♥ A65 ♦ J42 ♣ 2	♠ K ♥ KJ982 ♦ A ♣ KJ6543			
		5♣ E		NS: 0 EW: 0	

This highly distributional hand is interesting in that there is a profitable vulnerable against not save in 5♠ for N/S against 5♣. This is only 1 down unless E/W find a double dummy defence and get a diamond ruff.

Larry Chemaly and James Grant found the correct defence against the slightly inferior 5♥ contract which was doubled. Larry led his singleton club and got a club ruff after winning the A♥ and putting partner in with a spade. This sterling effort earned them 11 imps.

In the Women's, Nicky and Val found the 5♠ save following an auction that is not printable in a family magazine. This earned them 5.33 imps.

#95867 Pairs SABF OPEN TRIALS Finals 6					1/8	0.48	18.33	
1	2024-04-18 15:55	goldbar	larryc777	Dunx judeap	5♥xE-1	100	11.00	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 15:55	NoahApteke	drowzee	cruisey KingZlot	5♣E=	-400	-3.00	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 15:56	eebs	Hcbfick	alonap craigy52	5♣E=	-400	-3.00	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:05	bkpsc	diniar	imtiazi horace1	5♥E+1	-480	-5.00	Movie or Lin
#96137 Pairs SABF WOMEN'S TRIALS Finals 6					3/8	0.24	23.00	
1	2024-04-18 16:03	nicolap	valfb	hewey7 trishc	5♠S-2	-200	5.33	Movie or Lin
2	2024-04-18 15:57	deebee2	Shai007	peta_b FRANKIEJ	5♣E=	-400	-1.33	Movie or Lin
3	2024-04-18 16:02	sharrie	lvsm	foaden kangy	5♣E=	-400	-1.33	Movie or Lin
4	2024-04-18 16:00	dip53	glynisd	cassandrax JillyRabz	4♥E=	-420	-2.67	Movie or Lin

In the Women's event, Sharon Izerel and Dianna Balkin, who were lying 1st at the start of today's play., had 2 poor matches in the morning. They did not lose their nerve and fought back with a good win against Jenny Gautschi and Peta Balderson in the final match today. They remain strong favourites to make the top 3.

One of the most difficult obstacles that bridge players have to overcome to win is a psychological one. Bad results can be very distracting. Bob Hamman, who is considered by many to be the best player in the world, has the uncanny ability to completely put away a board that has already been played. I believe that this is his secret of success (besides his excellent card play, bidding and defence – In addition, I've heard that he is an excellent shuffler, dealer and scorer).

Good luck to all for the final match tomorrow.

Submitted by Bernard Donde