

Bermuda Regional, 2012

Bulletin No. 1
Saturday, January 21st



Editor: Janet Evans

WELCOME TO BERMUDA! TWICE AS NICE IN 2012



It's double the fun at the Bermuda Regional this year as the Committee is co-chaired by the capable couple of Judy Bussell (left) and Donna Leitch (right), both of whom have chaired the Tournament before.

"As well as being a former chairperson of the tournament, I've also had a great deal of experience on the Regional's partnerships desk where I'll be working again this year," says Judy, "so I certainly recognize the makings of a good team, and Donna and I are the perfect pair for this job!"



The Regional begins on Saturday, January 21st and ends on Friday, January 27th with Bermuda's signature, sensational prize-giving and banquet. Once again, the Committee is delighted that the event is hosted by the fabulous Fairmont Southampton Hotel.

"We are a fun-loving unit," says Donna, who is this year also organizing the banquet, "and our Committee, who will be introduced to you in tomorrow's bulletin, has arranged a week packed, not only with great bridge, but with other not-to-be-missed entertainment, so check this bulletin, the Hospitality desk, or the tournament website (www.bermudaregional.com) every day for further details."

The Bermuda Regional Tournament is famed for its friendliness and hospitality, and tonight, after the Charity Game, you can experience these qualities for yourself at the welcome rum swizzle reception in the Poinciana Foyer (just outside the main playing room), where you can mingle with our local players, make new friends, and discover more about this beautiful island.

"On behalf of the local unit of the ACBL, we welcome you ALL to our tournament and wish everyone plenty of bridge success and a memorable time with us this week. Play well and have fun!"
chime the Chairs – in unison, of course!

Today's Programme



8:15 P.M.
Stratified Charity Pairs
Newcomer Stratified Charity Pairs

Followed by:
The Welcoming Rum Swizzle
Reception



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2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 21st	8:15 p.m.	Stratified Charity Pairs+ Newcomer Stratified Charity Pairs+ <i>(Stratification by average masterpoints not by highest player)</i> The Welcoming Rum Swizzle Reception
Sunday, January 22nd	1:00 p.m.	Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (1st Session) Stratified Side Game* – Pembroke Series Session 1 <i>(Total of 5 single session side games)</i> Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	8:15 p.m.	Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2nd Session) Stratified Side Game* – Pembroke Series Session 2 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
Monday, January 23rd	9:00 a.m.	Compact Knockout Teams – Cedar Series <i>(Two 12 board matches. Finishes Tuesday morning – maximum 4 players per team)</i> Stratified Side Game* – Pembroke Series Session 3 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	12 Noon	Expert Lecture by GS Jade Barrett (Gardenia Room)
	1:00 p.m.	Bracketed Championship KO Teams (1st Round) <i>(Continues to Thursday)</i> Stratified Side Game* – Pembroke Series Session 4 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	8:15 p.m.	Stratified Championship Pairs (1st Session) Stratified Side Game* – Pembroke Series Session 5 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
Tuesday, January 24th	9:00 a.m.	Compact Knockout Teams – Cedar Series (Completion) Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 1 <i>(Total of 6 single session side games)</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Expert Panel Show
	1:00 p.m.	Bracketed Championship KO Teams (2nd Round) Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 2 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	4:30 p.m.	Expert Lecture (To Be Confirmed)
	8:15 p.m.	Stratified Championship Pairs (2nd Session) Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 3 Newcomer Stratified Pairs



TABLE FEES

\$15 PER PERSON PER SESSION

\$17 PER PERSON PER SESSION FOR NON AND UNPAID ACBL MEMBERS

2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (cont'd)

	Wednesday, January 25th	9:00 a.m.	Swiss Teams (1st Session) <i>(Finishes on Thursday morning.)</i> Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 4 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
		1:00 p.m.	Bracketed Championship KO Teams (Semi-Finals) Compact KO Teams – Sandy's Series <i>(Two 12 board matches. Finishes on Thursday afternoon – maximum 4 players per team)</i> Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 5 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
		8:15 p.m.	Stratified Open Pairs (1st Session) Stratified Side Game* – Warwick Series Session 6 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	Thursday, January 26th	9:00 a.m.	Swiss Teams (Final Session) Stratified Side Game* – Paget Series Session 1 <i>(Total of 5 single session side games)</i>
		10:30 a.m.	Expert Panel Show
		1:00 p.m.	Bracketed Championship KO Teams (Finals) Compact KO Teams – Sandy's Series (Completion) Stratified Side Game* – Paget Series Session 2 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
		8:15 p.m.	Stratified Open Pairs (Final Session) Stratified Side Game* – Paget Series Session 3 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
	Friday, January 27th	9:00 a.m.	Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (1st Session) Stratified Side Game* – Paget Series Session 4
		1:00 a.m.	Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2nd Session) Stratified Side Game* – Paget Series Session 5 Newcomer Stratified Pairs
		6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Party and Prize Giving+ followed by Prizegiving and Gala Dinner Dance+

+ Formal Dress Suggested

Championship Events are in bold

KO Teams continue daily at 1:00 p.m. until a winner is determined

*Players may play in any number of Stratified Side games with the same or different partners

MASTERPOINT LIMITS

STRATIFIED EVENTS: A – Unlimited; B – 1250; C – 500

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS EVENTS: Flight A – Unlimited; Strats B/C/D – 1500/750/300 stratified together

STRATIFIED NEWCOMER EVENTS: A – 200; B – 50; C – 20

Some matches may be handicapped in the top bracket of the Championship KO Teams

All Pairs games will be stratified by **average masterpoints** not by **higher player**

(see page 9 for an explanation of average masterpointing)



ALERT! NOTICES

SATURDAY EVENING CHARITY GAME 8:15 p.m.

The Bermuda Regional relishes its reputation for elegance and style and the Charity Games are formal, so shake out and shine! Gentlemen, black tie or jacket is requested, though not mandatory (but a gentleman never refuses). Ladies, the game is glam!

Join us in your finery **after** the game at the **rum swizzle reception in the Poinciana Foyer** where you can linger with the locals and sample some of that legendary Bermudian hospitality.

STRIKE A POSE, EVENT WINNERS!

We would like **photographs** of all **Event winners, including Flight B and C winners.** Unfortunately, however, we do not have room for Section winners. To reserve your place for posterity in the bulletin, please come to the area in the corner of the main playing room (just to the right of the Directors' table as you look towards it) **immediately after** the results are posted. Here we will use all the technology at our disposal to make you look fabulous, although the later you are, the less time there will be to airbrush! In short, please come before **you** go to bed so that we can put the **bulletin** to bed in good time and then get to bed **ourselves!**

(Co Chairs' Comment:
"Enough pillow talk – we run a family tournament")

SECTION TOPS

Winners of Section Tops may collect their prizes from the Section Top Desk next to the Hospitality Desk **from Monday onwards.**



BEWARE DIRECTORS INC!

(If you haven't renewed your ACBL Membership, that is!)

Those of you who haven't yet renewed your ACBL membership will be charged an extra \$2 per session entry fee and, what's more, will cross the path of Directors Inc!

If you experience the heavy Directorial tap on the shoulder, you'd be advised not to refuse their offer to settle your renewal quickly in the form of cash, credit card or cheque.

PHONE ALERT! ALARM BELLS



1-800, 866, 877, 888 phone calls are **NOT** free from the hotel. They will be charged at international rates and you will have no money left for shopping!

(See Opposite)

GOODIE BAGS

Register **a.s.a.p.** at the Hospitality Desk and collect your welcoming Goodie Bag from Greg, the Goodie Bag Man!

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL HAS ITS VERY OWN WEB-SITE!

at

WWW.BERMUDAREGIONAL.COM



Access the web-site to check latest scores, view current hand records, gaze at the pictures of winners, or simply send messages to the Partnership Desk the Chairpersons (who run a clean, family show), or the Newsletter Editor (who doesn't). Here are some useful e-mail contacts:

Chairpersons: info@bermudaregional.com Bulletin Editor: bulletin@bermudaregional.com
Partnership Desk: partnerships@bermudaregional.com



ALERT! NOTICES (CONT'D)



BANQUET AND PRIZE GIVING

You are invited to the most sensational Banquet and Prize Giving Ceremony on **Friday 27th**. Cocktails are served in the Poinciana Foyer from 6:30 p.m., followed by the Prize Giving and dinner and dancing in the Mid Ocean Amphitheatre at 7 p.m.

You **MUST** sign up for this event at the Hospitality Desk **by Wednesday**. Organize a table of 8-10 chums yourselves or take pot luck and have the Committee organize one for you.

The evening is formal, so push the boat out and come looking chic! Gentlemen, black tie or jacket are, if not mandatory, distinctly encouraged! Ladies, time to shimmer again!

EXPERT ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

Expert Lectures – Gardenia Room on **Monday 23rd at 12 noon and Tuesday 24th at 4:30 p.m.**

Expert Panel Show – Gardenia Room on **Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th at 10:30 a.m.** David Ezekiel, Wizard of the One-Liner, leads discussion of previous days' deals and other titillating topics.

HOTEL SHOPPING

The splendid hotel stores are open 7 days a week so there's plenty of time to give that trusty credit card a good workout. Most are open from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. (although some open at 10 a.m. on Sunday) and the Mezzanine stores close daily between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

CRAFTY LOCALS Tuesday 24th at 4 p.m.

A craft market of local products will be set up in the Poinciana Foyer at **tea time on Tuesday**. So, while sipping the life-giving fluid, here's your chance to acquire a locally made memento of your Bermuda experience.

Cash sales only, please! For your convenience, an ATM machine is located in the lower lobby of the hotel.

WILLOW STREAM SPA AND FITNESS CENTRE – BRIDGE SPECIAL OFFER!

After a few bruising bouts of bridge, you may well need this **spectacular** special offer. Purchase any 60 minute Spa Experience (starting at \$179) and choose a **COMPLIMENTARY** 30 minute Express Treatment (valued at \$69) for the bargain price of only £229 (**including 15% grats**). You must mention this offer at the time of booking and both treatments must be taken on the same day.



OVERHEARD ON A RECENT B.B.C. RADIO PROGRAMME



**“Bridge is the new rock and roll.
It's so square it's cool!”**

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE AND PLENTY FOR YOU TO DRINK!

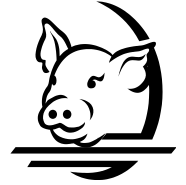
When you have picked up your goodie bags from Greg, the Goodie Bag Man, the more observant of you will notice that there is a special Bermuda Regional water bottle in it. The idea is that you carry this vessel around with you and refill it often, especially in the playing room where there are several water stations. And please don't try filling it up with a Bermuda Regional Drinks Special because everyone will want some and your partner will notice!

LOCAL LORE/BERMUDA BITS (RE-RUN from 2011)

Editor's Note: Because we have some new people here this year, we are re-running some local and historical items from last year's bulletin for their interest, as well as for the attention of those who WERE here last year but who may have nodded off over the bulletin because of exertions the night before - both at and away from the bridge table.



Bermuda was officially discovered in 1503 by a Spanish explorer, Juan de Bermúdez, when eerie sounds emanating from the reef-rimmed island soon gave rise to legends of local spirits and devils, and earned this otherwise beautiful spot the nickname "Isle of Devils". Such blood curdling sounds are now thought to have stemmed from the callings of raucous birds (most likely the Bermuda Petrel, or *Cahow*), and the loud noise heard at night from wild hogs.



Even now, late at night, when the last card of the evening has been played, it is possible to hear echoes of this primordial din, especially in the vicinity of tonight's welcoming rum sizzle reception. Join the 21st century local wildlife there as they gather around their watering holes to play.

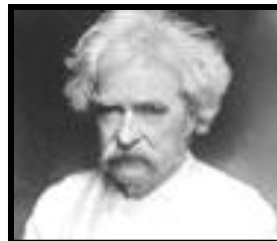
LOCAL LORE/BERMUDA BITS (NEW for 2012)

Editor's Note: In this new age of accountability, the Editor is adding some new Bermuda Bits this year to justify her inclusion in the company of the Committee That Never Sleeps (see tomorrow's bulletin for explanation of this enigmatic title).



If you receive the meaningful Directorial tap on the shoulder (see "Alert! Beware Directors Inc."), and if you pay up in local coinage, and if you receive any change at all, you may well be handed some Bermudian "pennies", on the reverse side of which is the image of the good ole hog (see above). This may seem rather an odd image for national coinage until you learn that, at one time, the islands of Bermuda were known as the **Hogge Islands** for reasons explained above.

Of arguably more interest on this porcine subject is the location of The Hog Penny Restaurant and Pub on Burnaby Hill in Hamilton, where you may see the history of Hog Money explained on the backs of their place-mats. And the **longer** you stay at this watering hole, peering at those place-mats and imbibing the local tipples, the **more** you will see – **double** would be a wild hog kind of guess! (**Editor's Comment:** research into this subject has been very pleasurable indeed – hic!)



Bermuda is a
PARADISE but you
have to go through
HELL to get there!

Mark Twain (1835-1910) visited Bermuda three times and was always seasick on the way here. We hope YOUR journey to Bermuda was more enjoyable!

BRIDGE BOFFIN COMPETITION



The Editor's caption to this picture of the great Giorgio Belladonna is:

"Mamma Mia, I'm so blue (geddit?)! I forgot to make dinner reservations at Bacci. It'll take a lot more than a bit of fancy footwork to explain THIS to Benito."

Can you do better? If so, pick up a **caption slip** from the Hospitality Desk and pop your suggestion in the Bulletin's Bright Blue Box there asap today, or e-mail the editor (see below), or use any of the other methods listed below to get in touch. Don't forget to include your name and where you're from so that we can properly credit you! We will run the best of your suggestions in tomorrow's bulletin and give you another Bridge Boffin to try!

THE DAILY BULLETIN – BRING US YOUR NEWS!

Lots of space has been left in each bulletin for your stories and achievements, so **get busy getting in touch**. The Bulletin/Press Room is located in the Lily Room on the Mezzanine floor, just up the steps from the elevators. The Bulletin Editor, however, can more often than not be found buzzing around the Hospitality Desk next to the Bulletin's Bright Blue Box. Stop her at any time for a chat, especially if you are the bearer of good news, bad news, or any news at all. Or simply post your news in the Bulletin's Bright Blue Box, which will be emptied regularly every day! Or contact the Editor via the Bermuda Regional Web Site at **bulletin@bermudabridgeregional.com** Come on, we're dying to hear your news! Don't forget to include your name and where you're from so that we can properly credit you!



CADDIE CORNER!

Once again, your caddies this year are from the Girl Guides of Bermuda. There will be more information about the Guides in Tuesday's bulletin, but, right from the outset, you are reminded that Bermudians value good manners very highly and are **always** courteous themselves, so **PLEASE** remember to say, "Caddy, **PLEASE!**" which will **PLEASE** us all and **WE THANK YOU** for this consideration!

Or in the words of that well-known Persian proverb: "By a sweet tongue and a kind word, you can drag an elephant with a single hair from your head!" **Editor's Comment: if you have a hair to spare, that is!**



IN YOUR HEAD AS YOU HEAD FOR THE TABLES



"No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table." **Martina Navratilova**

Editor's Comment: AND at the rum swizzle party after the game. See you there!



LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

The Ones to Beat!

OPEN CHARITY PAIRS

Flight A: Maria Moore, Lakeland Fla – Albert Levine, U.S.
 Flight B: Elizabeth McKee, Devonshire BDA – John Glynn, Paget BDA
 Flight C: Linda Pollett – William Pollett, Pembroke BDA

NOVICE STRATIFIED CHARITY PAIRS

Flights A and B: Susan Lemkau – Curt Lemkau, Short Hills NJ
 Flight C: Rita Lee, Chatham NJ – Lynn McLaughlin, New Vernon NJ

SWISS TEAMS

Flight A: Vera Petty – Roman Smolski, Warwick BDA
 Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach MA – Stephen Rzewski, South Dennis MA

Flight X: Sally Sykes – David Sykes, Flatts BDA
 Charles Hall, Smith's BDA – Anthony Saunders, Paget BDA

Flight B: Stephanie Kyme – Eddie Kyme, Pembroke BDA
 Wendy Gray – Richard Gray, Southampton BDA

Flight C: Dee Craft – Russell Craft, Smith's BDA
 Patricia Hayward, St. David's BDA – Patricia Colmet, Pembroke BDA

Flight D: Donna Leitch, Smith's BDA – James Leitch, Smith's BDA
 Katrina Van Pelt, Smith's BDA – Richard Meredith, Paget, BDA

MON – TUES CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

Flight A: Tiger Li Li Williams, Elk Point SD – Alan Douglas, Smith's BDA
 Flights B and C: Linda Pollett – William Pollett, Pembroke BDA

MON-TUES COMPACT KO TEAMS

Bracket 1: Tiger Li Li Williams, Elk Point SD – Ruth Weston, Marshfield MA
 Anne Dawson, Delhi LA – Richard Palmer, Charlestown MA

Bracket 2: Donald Hunter – Michael McKee, Toronto ON
 William Forbes, Kingston ON – Selwyn Kossuth, Mississauga ON

WED – THURS OPEN PAIRS

Flight A: Jean Johnson, Devonshire BDA – McKenzie Myers, Portland OR
 Flight B: Jo Custead – Larry Custead, Saskatoon SK
 Flight C: Maureen Berkman, Rye Brook NY – Sonia Kuper, New York NY

WED - THURS COMPACT KO TEAMS

Bracket 1: Jean Johnson, Devonshire BDA – McKenzie Myers, Portland OR
 Joseph Wakefield, Smith's BDA – Bill Souster, London UK
 Robert Todd, Tallahassee FLA

Bracket 2: Paul Thompson, Warwick BDA – Miodrag Novakovic, Southampton BDA
 Greg Carey – Simon Giffen, Hamilton BDA



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www.bermudatourism.com
1-800-BERMUDA



LAST YEAR'S WINNERS
The Ones to Beat!
(cont'd)



FRIDAY SWISS

- Flight A Vera Petty – Roman Smolski, Warwick BDA
 Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach MA – Stephen Rzewski, South Dennis MA
- Flight X Maria Moore, Lakeland FL - Joyce Searcy, Wesley Chapel FL
 Frances Hammer, Tampa FL - Albert Levine, US
- Flight B Judith Bussell, Devonshire BDA - Graham Fenton, Skopje 1000 Macedonia;
 Stephanie Kyme - Eddie Kyme, Pembroke, BDA
- Flights C and D Michael Tait - Greg Carey, Hamilton BDA;
 Miodrag Novakovic, Southampton BDA; Paul Thompson, Warwick BDA

The Maude Lines Trophy:

(Awarded to the overseas visitor who won the most masterpoints at the tournament)

G.S. Jade Barrett

The Norman Bach Trophy:

(Awarded to the Bermudian who won the most masterpoints at the tournament)

Tied – Vera Petty and Roman Smolski

The Bermuda Trophy:

(Awarded to the Bermudian who started the week with fewer than 20 masterpoints and who won the most masterpoints at the tournament)

Judy Harte-Lovelace



ALERT! IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AVERAGE MASTERPOINTING!

Directors Inc. would like to remind you (and they don't want any back chat!) that no player may compete in any game if his/her points exceed the **upper limit** of that game. For example, nobody may compete in a Newcomer game if he/she has more than 200 masterpoints.

Once in the game for which you are eligible, however, the masterpoint averaging applies. For example, if you have 70 points and your partner has 20, then your average is 45 and you may both compete in the under 50's of a Newcomer game.

It is one of the few situations in life when women will concede a high numerical answer:

Our Age? **No!** Our Weight? **Duh, NO!** Our Masterpoint Total or I.Q? The **higher** it is, the **happier** we are to tell you!

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY AT THE BERMUDA REGIONAL

Dinner reservations are **strongly advised**, especially for the Waterlot Inn and Bacci. This does not require a master plan – simply stop by the Concierge desk off the main lobby, or telephone the Concierge from your room! If you are planning to play after dinner, please notify the maitre d' and/or his staff that you must be finished by 8 p.m. to make the evening game in good time or Directors Inc. will develop a severe case of indigestion and this would not be a healthy outcome for anybody! If you have special dietary requests, please contact Lauren Rawlins on Ext. 6906 asap.

Fortunately, this week is also **Bermuda Restaurant Week**, sponsored by Bermuda's Department of Tourism, when you can request a special (but limited) menu from the Waterlot (\$49), Bacci (\$39) and the Jasmine Lounge (\$29). Now, after all that, you must have worked up an appetite for one or more of the following:

THE WATERLOT INN

Historic Waterfront Inn
AAA Four Diamond and Wine Spectator Awards
Sublime Steaks
From 5:30 each evening (except Monday)
Dress: jackets suggested
Shuttle service available



BACCI

Bella Italia
Lively Italian Cuisine
From 5:30 each evening (except Tuesday)
Dress: smart casual
Shuttle service available

WINDOWS ON THE SOUND

Breakfast with a breathtaking view!
Full buffet or a la carte breakfast
From 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily
Enjoy the Legendary Bermuda Breakfast Buffet
ONLY ON SUNDAY!
From 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.

LUNCH SPECIAL (From Monday to Thursday)

For maximum speed between games, pre-order a \$17 soup and sandwich special by 9:00 a.m. each day from the Hospitality Desk. Pick-up from the Poinciana Foyer from 11:30 to 12:30. Please check at the Desk for the different daily menus.



HIGH TEA

Complimentary high tea will be served each afternoon after the game in the Poinciana Foyer.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY AT THE BERMUDA REGIONAL

(cont'd)

THE JASMINE LOUNGE



The quintessential cocktail corner and the perfect place for meeting, greeting and discussing those cards! A scrumptious selection of light entrees, snacks, sandwiches, salads and desserts are on offer here throughout the day as a lunch or dinner option. Make sure you take advantage of the Regional Drinks Special of \$7.50 (soft drinks - \$5). No reservations required. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Dress: smart casual



THE CELLAR

With the atmosphere of Ye Olde English pub, the Cellar nestles cunningly next to the indoor pool via the Mezzanine. Here, while imbibing your chosen tippie and bemoaning your partner's play, you can watch your favourite sport, play a game of pool, or dance the night away!

Open Friday to Sunday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dress: yes!



DRINKS TICKETS

A bar will be set up outside the playing area every evening. Specially priced drinks tickets (\$7:50 for alcohol and \$5:00 for sodas) are used at this bar which may be purchased at the time or in advance at the Hospitality Desk either with cash or as a charge to your room.

If you haven't got tickets, just ask for the Bermuda Regional Bridge Specials at any bar outlet.

The main restaurants have a tiered price list of house wines.

Socrates – circa 470 B.C. – 399 B.C.



Mmm, after going down in that **STONE COLD** contract (geddit?), I need a bit more than a **Bermuda Regional Bridge Special**. I wonder how much they're charging for a **hit of hemlock?**

AND FINALLY – A BRIDGE (AND LITERARY) TEASER

FOR

BRIDGE IS HOBBIT FORMING

ON THE

STEPPING STONE STAIRS OF CIRITH UNGOL

Written by Richard Hills; Submitted by Jack Rhind

One king to rule them all,

One king to find them.

One king to bring them all,

And in the strip-squeeze bind them.

Before stepping the stones of the Stairs of Cirith Ungol, Frodo and Sam resolved to play one final deal of bridge. As a third player they recruited a reluctant Gollum (“Sssilly game, why not hunt for fisssh instead?”), and Gandalf the Good graciously consented to make up the four.

Frodo

♠A8653
♥9764
♦AQ52
♣---

Gandalf

♠QJT9
♥J32
♦K97
♣842

Sam

♠42
♥AKQ
♦J6
♣AKQT97

Gollum

♠K7
♥T85
♦T843
♣J653

WEST

Frodo

1♠
2♥
5♥
No bid
No bid

NORTH

Gandalf

No bid
No bid
No bid
Double (2)

EAST

Sam

2♣
4NT (1)
6♥
No bid

SOUTH

Gollum

Passs
Passs
Passs
Passs

(1) Keycard Mirkwood

(2) Expertly (and correctly) deducing that the ♦K was likely to be well placed, given that Sam had bid clubs and then supported hearts.

BRIDGE IS HOBBIT FORMING

ON THE STEPPING STONE STAIRS OF CIRITH UNGOL (cont'd)

Gandalf further demonstrated his expertise by finding a wizard lead of the ♠Q, top of a sequence. After Frodo played Sam's deuce from dummy, Gollum clutched his one king – "my precious" – to his chest, instead playing the ♠7.

Fortuitously, Gollum had made the right choice, since an unblock of the ♠K would have permitted Frodo to (respectfully) strip-squeeze Gandalf later in spades and diamonds (eventually Gandalf would have been thrown in with a master spade in order to lead away from the ♦K).

Frodo immediately won the ♠A, crossed to a trump in dummy, ruffed ♣7, and then drew trumps. Frodo now ran Sam's clubs from the top, reaching this position when the last club winner was played:

	Gandalf	
	♠JT	
	♥---	
	♦K9	
	♣---	
Frodo		Sam
♠86		♠4
♥---		♥---
♦AQ		♦J6
♣---		♣9
	Gollum	
	♠K	
	♥---	
	♦T84	
	♣---	

Gollum continued keeping his precious one king, discarding the ♦4 instead. Now the benevolent Gandalf attempted to donate the contract by intentionally discarding out of turn before Frodo's discard, but refrained after a pathetic whine from Gollum.

It would appear that Frodo was cursed by Gollum's one king because it seemed that any discard would lead to failure, given that Gandalf's double guaranteed that a simple diamond finesse would not work.

Frodo remembered the rule of elven. Yes, inspired by the memory of the elven Queen Galadriel, who ruled Lothlórien with a diamond ring on her finger, Frodo discarded the queen of diamonds.

Gandalf could not discard a spade, as Frodo would then exit with Sam's ♠4 to establish his ♠8 as the twelfth trick. So the Mighty One chose the apparently safe ♦9 discard. But Frodo played the ♦A, dropping Gandalf's ♦K, then led a spade to Gollum's one king. Now Gollum had to concede the contract to Sam's valiant ♦J.

This remarkable double-dummy problem was produced not by an ingenious composer but by a brainless software dealing package. Len Dixon, in whose weekly Canberra Times bridge column it was recently written up, cordially invites refutation of his tentative suggestion that the one-suit (indeed one-card) guard-cum-stepping-stone squeeze to which South can be subjected at trick 10 has not hitherto been analysed. If it really is new, it could, he now suggests, appropriately be named the Batemans Bay Squeeze after the club at which it occurred.