The Fairmont Hamilton Princess Bermuda

The Bermuda Regional Bridge Tournament, 2025

Editor: Janet Evans **Saturday, January 25th** ***Bulletin No.1***

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND IS TWICE AS NICE IN '25

This year, two heads are not only deemed better than one for chairing our tournament but also twice as nice as the Bermuda Regional's Boss Cards in 2025 are the Dynamic Doubleton of Rachael Gosling (left) and Steve Cosham (er – right), the pair with all the flair needed to continue the rebuild of this spectacular event to pre-pandemic levels and to catapult it into its customary stratospheric heights.

You might remember Rachael as last year's tournament queen when there was nothing loosey-goosey about this Gosling's leadership as she successfully resurrected the Bermuda Regional from the ashes of the Covid Crisis. "I fully intend to produce another golden egg this year," she promises, with a mischievous nod to the British pantomime 'Mother Goose'," and we will definitely be aiming to create fairy-tale memories for everyone to take home with them in 2025. Oh, yes, we will!"

Rachael is aided and abetted in this quest by the dashing Steve Cosham, a decorated ex-policeman (who has, over the years, accelerated many a heart rate in his splendid ceremonial uniform) in which former life he was affectionately known as Constable Cosh-Em. Steve has also served as Bermuda's National Disasters Co-Ordinator, so he is uniquely equipped to deal with any administrative snafu which may arise in the course of this week. "Despite my work with the Disasters Committee, I cannot calm the winds, and the weight of my medals prevents me from walking on water," he confesses sheepishly, thus debunking a popularly held belief, "but just watch me turn water into wine if those bridge hands don't co-operate with me this week!"

To keep up-to-date with all that's happening in this Twice as Nice time, at the bridge table and elsewhere, take a gander (see what I did there?) at this bulletin every day or check on our website at www.bermudaregional.com. If you prefer communication that's more up close and personal, the Twice as Nicers (who will be introduced to you in tomorrow's bulletin) are a constant presence around the hotel, especially in the playing room area at the various desks, and will be happy to chat with you at any time. As our recently revived Regional is still quite new to everyone, there is plenty of information in this bulletin and in subsequent bulletins to guide old and new friends alike around the iconic Hamilton Princess Hotel and through the tournament in general. Look out especially for the handy hotel maps in your goody bags or at the hotel reception desk which will tell you where you are and help you get to where you're going.

After all, our Dynamic Doubleton and the Twice as Nicers are very glad to see you this week and wouldn't want you to miss a single trick of your Bermuda Bridge experience while you're with us. Oh, no, they wouldn't.

Ed's Note: for the benefit of anyone who might not know, the expressions "Oh, yes, we will" and "Oh, no they wouldn't" used above are typically associated with the uniquely British theatre form of Pantomime, of which "Mother Goose" is a popular example. Otherwise, you might conclude that the Ed is being even more annoying and inane than usual when, in fact, oh no she isn't!

Please remember to REGISTER for the Tournament as soon as you arrive. The Registration Desk is set up in the Harbourview Ballroom, where you can also collect your Goody Bags and sign up for the Prizegiving and Gala Dinner Dance.

Welcome to Bermuda!

You are cordially invited to the Welcoming Swizzle and Stormy Soireé in the Trudeau Room after tonight's Charity Game. This is your chance to sample Bermudian beverages and to engage with local wildlife in their natural Regional Watering Hole Habitat

Today's Programme

8:15 P.M.

The Ernie Owen Memorial Stratified Championship Charity Pairs and 199er Game

(Who is Ernie Owen? See page 13)

(Trophy Event in Bold: Formal Dress Suggested – see page 13 for guidance**)**

This year's beneficiary charity is the **Red Cross of Bermuda.**

Following the bridge game, come and swing at the Swizzle and Stormy Soireé in the Trudeau Room

BERMUDA REGIONAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

see pages 4 and 5 for more information on all events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

8:15 p.m.

The Ernie Owen Memorial Stratified Championship Charity Pairs +

199er Game (0-199 Masterpoints)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH

9:30 a.m.

Swiss Teams 1 (Session 1 of 2)

(*continues tomorrow morning*)

Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Session 1 of 4*)*

(continues this afternoon)

199er Game (0-199 Masterpoints)

2:00 p.m.

Championship Bracketed Round-Robin Teams (Session 1 of 2)

(*continues this evening*)

Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Session 2 of 4)

(continues this evening)

199er Game (0-199 points)

8:15 p.m.

Championship Bracketed Round-Robin Teams (Session 2 of 2)

Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Session 3 of 4)

(finishes tomorrow morning)

199er Game (0-199 points)

MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH

9:30 a.m.

Swiss Teams 1 (Session 2 of 2)

Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Session 4 of 4)

199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 1 of 4)

(*continues to Thursday afternoon*)

Stratiflighted Pairs AXB/CD (Session 1 of 2*)*

(*finishes tomorrow afternoon*)

199er Game (0-199 points)

8:15 p.m

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs AX/BC

(Session 1 of 2*)*

(*finishes tomorrow evening*)

The Gosling's' Gold Pairs - 0-750 points (Session 1 of 2*)*

(*finishes tomorrow evening*)

Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Session 1 of 4*)*

(continues tomorrow evening)

199er Game (0-199 points)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH

9:30 a.m.

Open Side Game – Paget Series (Session 1 of 3*)*

(continues tomorrow morning)

199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 2 of 4)

(*continues to Thursday afternoon*)

Stratiflighted Pairs AXB/CD (Session 2 of 2)

Swiss Teams 2 (Session 1 of 1)

199er Game (0-199 points)

8:15 p.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs AX/BC

(Session 2 of 2)

The Gosling's Gold Pairs - 0-750 points (Session 2 of 2)

Open Side Game – Warwick Series *(*Session 2 of 4)

(continues Friday morning)

199er Game (0-199 points)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH

9:30 a.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs AX/BC (Session 1 of 2)

(*finishes tomorrow morning*)

The Bermuda Gold Rush Pairs - 0-750 points (Session 1 of 2)

(*finishes tomorrow morning*)

Open Side Game – Paget Series (Session 2 of 3)

(continues tomorrow morning)

199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 3 of 4)

(*finishes tomorrow afternoon*)

Swiss Teams 3 (Session 1 of 2)

(*finishes tomorrow afternoon*)

Stratiflighted Pairs 2 AXB/CD (Session 1 of 2)

(*continues tomorrow afternoon*)

199er Game (0-199 points)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH

9:30 a.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs AX/BC (Session 2 of 2)

The Bermuda Gold Rush Pairs - 0-750 points (Session 2 of 2)

Open Side Game – Paget Series (Session 3 of 3)

(finishes tomorrow morning)

199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 4 of 4)

Swiss Teams 3 (Session 2 of 2)

Stratiflighted Pairs 2 AXB/CD (Session 2 of 2)

199er Game (0-199 points)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST

9:30 a.m.

The IGI Championship Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (Session 1 of 2)

(*continues this afternoon*)

Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Session 3 of 4)

(finishes this afternoon)

199er Game// (0-199 points)

1:30 p.m.

The IGI Championship Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (Session 2 of 2)

Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Session 4 of 4)

199er Game (0-199 points)

All bridge sessions are $20.00 per player per session.

All bridge games are played in the Harbourview Ballroom on the Mezzanine Level.

In addition to the bridge games, there will be complimentary fun, fabulous and informative expert lectures and panel-shows throughout the week

(see page 6 for more info)

And, finally, on Friday evening, the Bermuda Regional's Signature Prize-Giving and Gala Dinner Dance* will be held in the stunning Princess Rooms (directly beneath the Harbourview Ballroom).

Tickets are $125.89

(includes grats, 2 complimentary cocktails, and entry into the Gala Raffle)

(see page 7 for more info)

MORE SKINNY ON THE SCHEDULE FOR 2025

see also Professor Pete on the next pages

MASTERPOINT LIMITS

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS STRATA
(See also the following pages for further info):

THE STRATIFLIGHTED CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS	A/X – Unlimited/tbd, stratified together; B/C -1500/3000, stratified together
THE STRATIFED CHAMPIONCHIP PAIRS	A – Unlimited; B – 3000; C-1500
BERMUDA GOLD	Gold – 300 to 750; Red – 0 to 300 (Red)
STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS:	A/X – Unlimited/tbd, stratified together; B/C/D – 1500/750/300, stratified together

OTHER EVENTS STRATA:

OPEN	A – Unlimited; B – 1500; C-500
STRATIFIED NEWCOMER EVENTS	A – 100; B – 50; C - 20

**All stratification is based on the average for the pair or team;
except, in any event or flight where there is an upper limit,
no individual player's master point total may exceed that upper limit (see note at bottom left).**

SCHEDULE LEGEND

**Championship Trophy Events are listed in bold:
(ONLY POINTS GAINED IN THESE EVENTS
WILL COUNT TOWARDS THE
NORMAN BACH AND MAUDE LINES TROPHIES)**

**Bermuda Gold Points are available in all events
except the Saturday Charity Pairs and
the 199er Pairs
(See also below)
KO events may be handicapped**

**+ Formal dress is suggested
(see page 13 for guidance on dress)**

ENTRY FEES
$20 per player per session

**"With these entry fees, darling,
I shall only be using that pass card as a fan!"**

ALERT!
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AVERAGE MASTER POINTING!

**The Directors would like to remind you 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 99er game
if he/she has more than 100 master points.
Once in the game for which you are eligible, however,
the master point averaging applies.**

**For example, if you have 70 points and your partner
has 20, then your average is 45 and you may compete
as a pair
in the under 50's of a Newcomer game.
(See also following pages for more useful info)**

PROSPECTING FOR BERMUDA GOLD

**With the exception of the
Saturday Charity Pairs and the 199er Pairs,
GOLD points are awarded for placing overall or
winning a Section/Flight/Stratum A or B in events
shown in bold. GOLD points are also awarded in the
Knock-Out Team events.**

**Flight A Section Top awards in a Stratified Side Game
session become (quite alchemically) GOLD
for players who have played two or more sessions
in the same series.
Check with the Directors for details.
All other awards earn RED points.**

PROFESSOR PETE'S POINTERS TO UNDERSTANDING THE REGIONAL SCHEDULE by ACBL Director Peter Donnellan

Never let it be said that the Twice as Nicers don't listen to your suggestions and do what they're told. As a response to your feedback last year, we have dragooned local ACBL director Peter Donnellan into explaining all the mysteries of our Regional schedule, making him not so much Mr Chips as Mr Tips. So, sit up straight, wipe your noses and pay attention – there may be a pop quiz at the end - if your brain hasn't popped in the meantime.

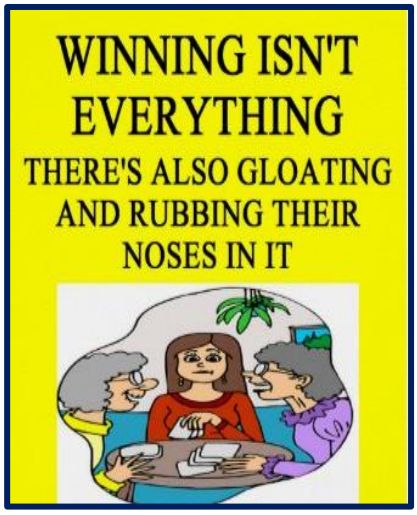
GENERAL TERMS

SESSION – a three-hour period during which approximately 24 boards are played. Games may be played over one or more sessions. In a "two- session" event, each session will have its separate winners who earn masterpoints, but players are expected to play in both sessions and there are additional "overall" awards based on the results combined over both sessions.

SECTION – up to 18 tables make up a Section. Where there are, for instance, 40 pairs (20 tables) entered for a game, there will be two Sections, players being allocated randomly. Each Section will have its own results and masterpoints, and there will be additional masterpoint awards for winners of the two Sections when combined. Sections are normally **STRATIFIED** – see below.

STRATIFIED – a game in which players are identified as being in Strat A, B or C – just as in regular Club games. In stratified games, pairs or teams play against each other irrespective of their strat, but points are awarded separately for best pairs/teams in each stratum. If the top stratification is **OPEN**, there is no limit to the number of Masterpoints a player may have – could be tens of thousands so you are well advised to avoid such events if you are very inexperienced, since you will find yourself playing these experts!!

Note, however, that because the strats are defined by their upper limits, everyone in a stratified game will be a member of Strat A, but the reverse is obviously not true! Similarly, all members of Strat C will also be members of Strat B, etc. This means that if a Strat C pair does well, they will find they are given the masterpoints they deserve as a result of their success when measured in Strat A or B (i.e. more masterpoints).



Good Heavens, my dear, we don't ALWAYS play bridge. Sometimes we sleep!

In a two-session stratified game with two sections, for example, masterpoints will be awarded for positions in A, B and C in each section for each session, and additional points will be awarded in each strat to those players who have the best scores when the results in both sections over both sessions are combined.

STRATIFLIGHTED - in Stratiflighted events, pairs or teams where one player has over 1500 points are allocated to the top section - known as the A/X flight where teams play each other. Teams where none of the players have more than 1500 MPs are allotted to the lower flights (known as the B/C/D flights) and play each other in a section usually stratified 1500/750/300.

BRACKETED - an event is bracketed if the pairs/teams in the event are grouped together with players allocated to each group depending on the average number of masterpoints of the pair or team. The pair or team only plays other pairs or teams in the same group – so a group will not have junior players facing expert players in a bracketed event. If there are enough entrants for a bracketed session, the lowest bracket may well be filled entirely with junior pairs/teams.

EVENTS EXPLAINED

STRATIFIED CHAMPIONSHIP CHARITY PAIRS – Saturday Evening

This is a single session event on Saturday evening where the proceeds go to Charity (in 2025, the Red Cross). It is stratified (Open/1500/500). There will be several sections to accommodate all those who wish to play. The overall winning pair is the highest scoring pair across all sections.

BRACKETED ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - 2 Session Event - Sunday Afternoon and Evening.

The teams are divided into groups (**BRACKETS**) using masterpoints, so that within each bracket players all fall into the same masterpoint band. (The masterpoints to define each bracket are not set until everyone is signed up so that the number of teams in each bracket is broadly similar).

All the teams within each bracket play matches against other teams in the same bracket (a **ROUND ROBIN**) over the two sessions.. Within each bracket, masterpoints are awarded for each match won, and when the results are computed at the end of the second session, additional masterpoints are awarded to the teams doing best in each bracket.

Experienced junior players who form teams will find themselves bracketed with teams of a relatively similar level, so this is a good event for those who wish to play against players with similar experience.

PROFESSOR PETE'S POINTERS TO UNDERSTANDING THE REGIONAL SCHEDULE

by Peter Donnellan

EVENTS EXPLAINED (contd)

BRACKETED CHAMPIONSHIP KNOCK-OUT TEAMS - 4 Session Event - each afternoon Monday-Thursday

These are teams' games, starting at 2.00pm. Teams are grouped into brackets (using masterpoints) and then, within each bracket, each team will play one 24 board match or two 12 board matches in the first session. The top bracket is Open, but other brackets will have masterpoint bandings. The losers on each afternoon are knocked out and the winners go on to the next round the following day – and so on, through to Thursday afternoon, when the finals are held within each bracket.

NEWCOMER STRATIFIED PAIRS – Saturday Evening and Onwards

These are single session events held throughout the week. No player may have more than 199 MPs and games are stratified. Each game is a stand-alone event.

STRATIFIED SIDE GAMES

These are open stratified games offered in most of the sessions in which any pair can play, irrespective of their masterpoint holdings. So, often, quite a mixture of experienced and less experienced players participate. Although grouped into series (Pembroke, Paget and Warwick), each game is a stand-alone event with its own masterpoints, but they are stratified and there are awards for the players who do best in each of the series.

CHAMPIONSHIP STRATIFIED PAIRS. Mon/Tues Evenings and Weds/Thurs Mornings

These are two-session pairs games, comprising two or three sections in each game and stratified typically Open/3000/1500 – i.e. players in the lowest stratum can have up to 1500 masterpoints.

BERMUDA GOLD PAIRS (0-750) - two separate two-session events – Monday and Tuesday Evenings, and, separately, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings

These are pairs games limited to players with fewer than 750 MPs. There are normally two strata – limits: 750, 300. Players playing in the first session are expected to compete in the second session in each event. There will probably be two or three sections in each event, depending on numbers of players. Pairs who are successful in the A strat (even if they do not have many points and are also members of Strat B or C) in each session and overall get gold points.

This event targets intermediate players who are looking for gold points. Although the upper Masterpoint limit is "only" 750 MPs, this is still a relatively advanced level and most of the participants are quite experienced, looking for gold points needed to achieve their Life Master status. While all eligible players are welcome, junior players should bear in mind that they will be playing against players with up to 750 masterpoints!

SWISS TEAMS – several different (unconnected) events:

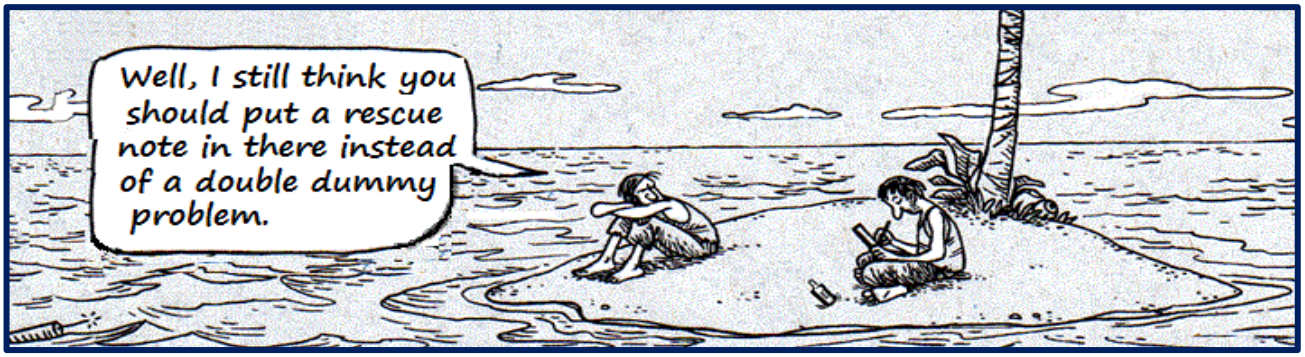
Sunday & Monday Mornings – a two-session event

Tuesday Afternoon – a one-session event – all welcome but specially arranged for those teams knocked out of the Bracketed Championship Knock-Out Teams on Monday afternoon

Wednesday and Thursday Afternoons – a two-session event

Friday Morning and Afternoon – a "STRATIFLIGHTED" two-session event

Each event comprises a series of teams matches, with teams matched against each other more or less randomly initially but with the opponents for successive matches calculated by the computer, so increasingly teams that have won matches find themselves playing other successful teams, while those less successful battle against each other.



FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM THE TWICE AS NICE

EVENT PRIZES AND SECTION TOP PRIZES

F.Y.I.

Event Prize Winners (congrats!)
and Section Toppers (hurrah!)
may collect their prizes from the -er –
Prizes and Section Tops Desk,
in the playing area,
which is open just before any game session

See back page for more info on these prizes

TOP TALKS DURING THE WEEK
all in the Trudeau Room on the Mezzanine Floor

Monday 27th – 12:30 p.m.
Ask Jerry with Jerry Helms
"Planning the Second Bid Before You Make the First"
Tuesday 28th – 12:30 p.m.
Hand's On with Jeff Hand
"Play These No-Trump Hands"
Wednesday 29st – 12:30 p.m.
The Prophet's Panel Show
Revelations
Thursday 30th – 12:30 p.m.
Hot Topics with Hot Toddy

Feel free to bring your lunch, but please don't rustle your brown bags noisily, and definitely don't Ask Jerry (or anyone else) questions with your mouth full!

NEWS ON BREWS FOR YOUS

Morning coffee and tea may, of course, be purchased from the Duchess Gelateria in the hotel lobby but early risers might want to combine their quest for caffeine with a short, brisk, wake-up walk and patronise one of the outlets below, all less than 10-minutes on foot from the hotel.

In all cases, turn right at the hotel entrance into Pitts Bay Road and keep walking until you find your hot spot.

Miles Coffee Shop - first right off Pitts Bay into the Waterfront complex- left into Chesney House - down steps on right

L'Artisan Boulangerie - further along Pitts Bay on the right just past the distinctive green Bluck's Building

Milan Milan – on the opposite side of the street from L'Artisan

Don't count on us for an early night tonight.
We'll be tango-ing in Trudeau,
Swizzling on a Saturday night!

CASHING IN!

There is a cash machine in the main lobby opposite the Hotel Registration Desk.
Please note that It dispenses only Bermudian money.

DESK ORGANIZER

The Registration, the Hospitality, the Partnerships, and the Prizes and Section Tops Desks are all located inside the Playing Area in the Harbourview Ballroom and are open before each playing session.

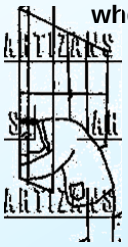
TEA FOR YOU IN TRUDEAU

Join us for our delicious signature tea and scones after the afternoon sessions every day from Sunday to Thursday in Trudeau and help settle the age-old question: cream or jam first?

F.Y.I.

SCENTS AND SENSITIVITY

Please be aware that, in line with popular scentiment – er – sentiment, the Bermuda Regional is a FRAGRANCE-FREE ZONE, and kindly take this into consideration when gussying up to come to the table.



"You don't think I've overdone the perfume, do you, partner?"

F.Y.I.

TEDDY'S READY FOR EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING

Teddy Gosling is a man of all trades and master of many.
On the one hand, you may have seen him over the last couple of days trucking in supplies for the Regional's Hospitality programme; on the other hand. he is the sculptor of two of the most stunning trophies on offer this week which are awarded to the winners of the Gosling's and Gold Rush Pairs.

He is, quite simply, the Regional's very own Renaissance Man and Rachael and the rest of the Committee recognise and thank him for all his efforts, not only giving credit where credit's due but ensuring a boost in domestic bliss on the Gosling Home Front.

TWICE THE ADVICE FROM THE TWICE AS NICE

GOODY BAGS

Register soonest, if not before,
at the Tournament Registration Desk
in the Harbourview Ballroom
and collect your fabulous welcoming Goody Bag from the Twice as Nice Team who are busy being nice there.

And, while we've bagged your attention,
we would like to extend a sack-load of thanks to

Goslings Since 1806 · BGA Wholesale Distributor · Butterfield & Vallis · Lindo's Group of Companies

for their generous contribution towards the products which you will find in those very good goody bags and for support in general of our tournament

WARNING!

Please note that the goody bags may contain products with nuts and other allergenics in them
so please check carefully.

FIVE ON THE CARDS and ON THE MONEY

The Bermuda Regional's Famous Five Directors (the FF) would like to remind players that each pair is required to have TWO completed convention cards and, while, because they ARE the Famous Five, they might overlook a pair having only ONE completed card, a pair with NO completed card AT ALL will earn anything BUT a high five or a cheery hurrah from the FF and are likely to temporarily turn them off their lashings of ginger beer.

The FF would also like to point out that they are unable to accept U.S. or Canadian checks for any transaction. Bermudian checks are, however, acceptable, and cash, of course, is naturally King at the Princess.

See "Cashing In" on previous page.

F.Y.I.

FIVE GO ON ABOUT MULTI 2

The FF direct that,
in line with the ACBL's own directives …

Multi is only permitted in the top bracket of the Championship KO, the top bracket of the Round Robin Teams, and the A/X Flight of the IGI Stratiflighted Swiss Teams.

Any pair playing Multi (either only weak or weak/strong meanings) must provide their opponents with two copies of the defences to Multi, printed from the defence list on the ACBL website.

THE ACBL HAS YOUR NUMBER, OR DOES IT?

In order to play in any game at the Bermuda Regional, you must have an ACBL number. If you are currently a lapsed member of the ACBL, your number will still be in the system but you may have to pay a small fee to re-instate it; if you have never been a member of the ACBL, don't panic and definitely don't go home!

Just see the Famous Five Directors and they will sort everything out for you because, although you may just be a number to the ACBL, you're so much more than that to us here at the Bermuda Regional!

PRIZE GIVING AND GALA DINNER DANCE

You are invited to the Regional's glittering Prize Giving and Gala Dinner Dance on Friday 31st. This gala event will begin with the Prize-Giving at 6:30 p.m.in the stunning Princess Rooms followed by a leisurely dinner and wild-ish dancing.

You MUST sign up for this event at the Hospitality Desk a.s.a.p. (perhaps while collecting your goody bags?). Organize a table of 8-10 fellow revellers yourselves or pin your hopes on a trusty Excel spread sheet.

Tickets for everyone cost $125.89 (incl. grats and two complimentary cocktails), and may be ordered as soon as you like from the Hospitality Desk and purchased either with cash or as a room charge.
If you have any special dietary requirements, please make these known when signing up.

Finally, go to page 13 for info on THE GALA RAFFLE, an exciting new feature of an already fabulous event.

F.Y.I.

THE HASTY TASTY EXPRESS LUNCH SPECIAL (Sunday to Friday)

For maximum speed between games, pre-order a soup and sandwich special combo.
MUST BE ORDERED A DAY IN ADVANCE
Pick up an order form from the Hospitality Desk; paid for as a charge to your room.
Non-residents may pay with cash or card.
All prices inclusive of grats

Soup Only	$12
Sandwich Only	$13
Soup and Half Sandwich Combo	$16
Soup and Full Sandwich Combo	$20

SUNDAY'S MENU

Tomato Bisque OR
Leek and Potato Soup

Ham and Cheese Sandwich OR
Tuna Salad Sandwich

Gluten-free options are available – indicate at sign-up.
Pick-up outside the playing room..

ONCE MORE, IN THE PINK AT THE HAMILTON PRINCESS - THEN AND NOW THE "Place of Eternal Spring"!

With more and more first-timers joining us in 2025, we felt obliged to re-run this article from 2024 so that our new-comers have some idea of just what they've got themselves into at the Hamilton Princess! This stunning Fairmont hotel lies at the historic centre of Bermuda's hospitality industry and has long been known by locals as "The Pink Palace". It opened its grand doors in 1885 and soon attracted international recognition when Princess Louise, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, visited for a winter retreat and called it and Bermuda in general "a place of eternal swing – er - spring." And from the moment it opened, named in honour of that English Royal, the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club was considered the jewel in Bermuda's tourism crown.

Princess Louise, The Duchess of Argyll

As word got out, celebrities started to appear. Mark Twain (see pic below) visited Bermuda numerous times despite acute seasickness, and was a regular at the hotel, apparently enjoying smoking cigars on the hotel's veranda while he signed autographs, reciting poetry to adoring fans, and falling in love with all things Bermudian to such a degree that he was famously to proclaim, "You go to heaven if you want, I'd rather stay in Bermuda".

In 1939, as the world went to war, the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club became an important intelligence centre. Canadian spymaster William Stephenson, that man called Intrepid, was based here, where he frequently met with author Ian Fleming, also On Her Majesty's Secret Service. It is said that Fleming's creation, James Bond, was modelled on Stephenson, whom he greatly admired - Fleming himself once wrote, "James Bond is a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is ... William Stephenson." (See Bulletin 6 for more info on this espionage connection)

He's the Real Thing

This statue of the Mississippi Maestro was once located in the Hamilton Princess lobby but can now be found outside O'Hara House on Bermudiana Road (turn right outside the Hotel entrance and this is the second road on the left).
Oh, dear! He certainly doesn't look too thrilled about the re-location!

And a word of advice from our Southern Sage as you approach your games this week:
"It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble;
it's what you know for sure that just ain't so!"

With well over a century of experience, the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club is sister to properties such as the Plaza in New York, the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, the Fairmont Banff Springs in Alberta, and the Fairmont San Francisco.
Despite these famous and illustrious siblings, the glorious history of Bermuda's Pink Palace and a recent upgrade to become a 5-star property makes her the Grande Dame and oldest member of the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts family, recently voted by Trip Advisor the Best of the Best in the Caribbean, while Condé Nast wrote:
"This stately resort in Hamilton is simply called 'the Princess' — and once you're inside you'll see her crown jewels sparkle".

So, just like Mark Twain, this Hamilton Hotel's Huckleberry friend, we're confident you'll be in Perfect Paradise at this particular Pink Palace.

ONE MORE TIME FOR STEPHANIE KYME; UNIT 198'S PRESIDENT SAYS HELLO AND WELCOME

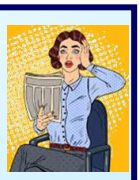
In this year when the art of doubling up is definitely de rigeur, Stephanie Kyme returns for a second year as local A.C.B.L President and remains on top of everything as holder of several key administrative posts in local Bridge governance – no wonder people everywhere refer to her in hushed and awed tones as "La Presidenta". "One of the highlights of all my responsibilities," she confesses, "is welcoming old friends and new to our Regional. We had such an enjoyable and successful return to Tournament Bridge last year and are thrilled that the signs are good for a repeat performance in 2025."

Local ACBL President, Stephanie Kyme

"So, "she adds, "I'd like to extend the warmest welcome to all who have travelled from abroad to support us as we build back our Regional to pre-Covid levels, and to thank both visitors and locals alike for doing their bit to make this event the big hit I'm sure it will be. I will be helping out during the Tournament with distributing section tops and prizes but, to call a spade a spade, I hope to win a few of these myself, so feel free to ask me for any help at all this week, except when playing against me at the bridge table!

May the cards be kind and the weather fair for you this week,
and Unit 198 will take care of everything else.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BULLETIN



If you would like to read the bulletin at the breakfast table every day on your device, go to

www.bermudaregional.com

or pick up a hard copy hot off the press
FROM THE TABLE OUTSIDE THE CROWN AND ANCHOR
OR
FROM THE DESKS IN THE PLAYING ROOM
And remember that, as aways,
there's more than enough cheese in the Bulletin for everybody's Breakfast Bagel!

TOP GUAY

Once again, the Bermuda Bridge Community extends huge thanks to all at

Tops Ltd.

but particularly to

President Claude Guay

(and his little frog)

for his continued generosity and helpfulness with respect to bulletin production.
Without his support,
the Bulletin, as we know it, would not be possible,
but please don't hold this against him or the little frog!

PHOTO CALL FOR TONIGHT'S CHARITY GAME WINNERS

We would like photographs of ALL Charity Champs, including Flights B and C winners in BOTH THE OPEN AND THE NEWCOMER PAIRS.

To have your photo taken for the bulletin, look snappy and
MEET THE ED OUTSIDE THE PLAYING ROOM
Where she will be waiting to capture you for posterity

As you will no doubt be decked out in your evening finery, the Ed expects to take some fab shots tonight, so try to think of a memorable victory pose and a succinct sound-bite for your awe-struck fans.

If you miss this opportunity tonight, perhaps because you've spent too long bragging to buddies, catch the Ed the following morning loitering in any lobby, or, better still, send a selfie to janetev50@hotmail.co.uk before midnight tonight.

WINNER

ART COLLECTION PERFECTION

Amongst the many fine attractions of Bermuda's Pink Palace is its world- renowned art collection, on loan from the Green family, owners of the hotel.
Stroll along almost any walkway or corridor in the hotel and you'll scarcely believe your peepers at the sudden discovery of works by the likes of
Pablo Picasso, Damien Hirst, Jasper Johns, Jeff Koons, Andy Warhol,
to name but a few of the legends on show here.
One visiting bridge player from last year said,
"The art in the hotel made my heart sing as I walked around."

Scan the Self-Guided Art Tour QR Code which you can obtain from the Front Desk, download the menu and away you go to Art Wonderland.

Oh, and don't forget to smile for the 375 security cameras which have been installed to protect such a precious horde.

But, Miss, why aren't they looking at their phones?

DINING IN AND EATING OUT

SATISFACTION A GUARANTEE DINING IN AT THE HAMILTION P

Steeped as the Hamilton Princess is in Bermuda's colourful past and traditions, many of the hotel restaurants' names reflect this heritage. Read on for some of the hotel's history highlights and for titbits to tantalize the most discriminating taste buds

Early booking is recommended for ALL OUTLETS – being a hotel guest does not automatically guarantee a reservation!

THE INTREPID

This flagship restaurant is inspired by one of the hotel's most distinguished past visitors, Sir William Stephenson. Code named "Intrepid" by British Intelligence, Stephenson headed the Allied Forces' Atlantic censorship station based in this very hotel (see page 8 of this bulletin and Bulletin 6 - "Eye Spy"- for more info on this historic connection)

Exclusively serving dinner, the Intrepid specialises in upscale steak, seafood and raw, offering a contemporary twist on the classic American grill. With panoramic harbour views, a stylish art deco vibe, and a recently added Intrepid martini cocktail (shaken not stirred, of course), it is a MUST to make reservations if you wish to don bib and tucker here.

FROM INTREPID WITH LOVE

Open Monday – Saturday
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Cocktails 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fine Dining Option
Dress: Resort Smart

RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL.

THE CROWN AND ANCHOR

Full buffet, à la carte, or continental breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. daily.
Lunch/Dinner from 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily
Enjoy the Legendary Bermuda Brunch from 11:00 a.m.to 4:00 p.m.
and the Crown and Anchor Roast Dinner from 5:00 p.m. on
BRUNCH AND ROASTS ONLY ON SUNDAYS
RESERVATIONS FOR BOTH ESSENTIAL
Late Night Menu from 10:30 p.m. to midnight.
Bar opens from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Dress: Yes!

THE CROWN AND ANCHOR

The game of Crown and Anchor, a simple dice game, originated in the 18th century and has been legalized by the Bermuda government for the national Cup Match Holiday which features a two-day cricket match between Somerset and St. George's, staged alternately at one end of the Island or the other and always against a backdrop of unbridled merry-making.

And it's that very Cup Match vibe which this sleek and modern restaurant, the heart of the HP dining experience, aims to capture with great food, captivating entertainment, and exceptional coming together to celebrate the pleasures of island life. Catch the live band "Working Title" between on Thursday night, a D.J. on Friday night, and a D.J. during the liveliest brunch in Bermuda on Sunday.

LOITER IN THE LOBBY, GAZE AT THE GREATS OF THE ART WORLD
(see Art Collection Perfection opposite)
AND VISIT
THE DUCHESS CAFÉ AND GELATERIA

Open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE DUCHESS CAFÉ AND GELATERIA

This outlet is named for Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyll – the hotel's namesake – who once described the hotel and Bermuda at large as "a place of eternal Spring" to anyone who would listen, thus becoming Bermuda's first influencer and boosting local tourism no end.

The Duchess Café and Gelateria is one of Bermuda's hottest coffee shop destinations. Breakfast and lunch are also made here fresh every day and are available to eat in or to grab-and-go, while also boasting a selection of home-made gelatos and creative milk shakes.

THE HASTY TASTY STARTS TOMORROW-

This is a swift Soup and Sandwich combo lunch option.
See page 7 for further details and tomorrow's menu.

THE REGIONAL'S ROYAL DRINKS PRICES

A bar will be set up in the Trudeau Room every evening where specially priced Regional drinks are available
($11:00 for alcohol and $5:00 for sodas).

Please note that these special prices do not apply at other outlets in the hotel.

This option is available from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Scan the QR code in your room for menus and press the -er- In Room Dining button or 0 on your hotel phone to order.

At all hotel eating outlets, don't forget to ask for the BERMUDA RESTAURANT WEEKS MENU.
THESE ARE EXCELLENT TWO OR THREE COURSE REDUCED MENUS AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.

DINING IN AND EATING OUT

CERTAIN NOT TO LET YOU DOWN IF YOU CHOOSE TO EAT IN TOWN

SEVEN-ELEVEN HEAVEN:

OTHER NEARBY EATERIES

If, at some time this week, you fancy a stroll out of the hotel into Hamilton for a change of gastronomic scene, or you find that the very popular hotel restaurants are full, here are SEVEN additional HEAVENLY restaurants in order of distance within an ELEVEN-minute walk of the Princess:

WHEREVER YOU GO, DON'T FORGET TO ASK ABOUT RESTAURANT WEEK OPTIONS!
THESE ARE EXCELLENT TWO OR THREE COURSE REDUCED MENUS AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.

Huckleberry – sea and farm to table – 295-1640 – www.huckleberryBDA.com – situated opposite the hotel entrance

The Cloud – eclectic mix of cuisines – 299-0620 – www.waterfrontcloud.bm – turn right outside the hotel entrance - walk until you reach the first turning right (opposite the Bacardi Building) - walk to the top of the slope and find the Wellesley Building at 2 o'clock – the Cloud is on the 3rd floor

Harry's at the Waterfront – fine dining – 292-5533 – www.harrys.bm – turn right outside the hotel, walk until you reach Waterloo Lane on your right- the restaurant is situated at the bottom of the slope

Porto Fino — Italian comfort food – 292 -2237 – www.portofino.bm- turn right outside the hotel, walk until you reach Bermudiana Road on your left – the restaurant is situated halfway up this road.

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Little Venice – Bermuda's first Italian restaurant – 295-3503 – www.littlevenice.bm – see directions for Porto Fino above – Little Venice is situated further up this road.

L'Oriental – 296-4477- www.loriental.bm - located above Little Venice, boasts a menu of Asian classics

The Lobster Pot – renowned for seafood – 292-6898 – www.lobsterpot.bm – see directions for Porto Fino and Little Venice above – the Lobster Pot is located near the top of the road.

HOT STUFF - EARLY BIRD BREW JUST FOR YOU

Morning coffee and tea may, of course, be purchased from the Duchess Gelateria in the hotel lobby but early risers might want to expand their beverage options by patronising one of the following outlets, less than a 10-minute walk from the hotel.

In all cases, turn right at the hotel entrance into Pitts Bay Road and keep walking until you find your hot spot.

Miles Coffee Shop - first right off Pitts Bay into the Waterfront complex- left into Chesney House - down steps on right

L'Artisan Boulangerie - further along Pitts Bay on the right just past the distinctive green Bluck's Building

Milan Milan – on the opposite side of the street from L'Artisan

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL
FAQ's and VISITORS' VIEWS

To help everybody settle into our tournament and so that you set your expectations at the appropriately high bar, the Twice as Nicers have answered a few frequently asked questions below, and the Ed has included a selection of comments provided by our visitors in past post - tournament surveys. The comments are quite genuine but unattributed because the survey guarantees anonymity.

Q. **I don't want to annoy the directors by getting to the games late so how do I find my way around the hotel and get to where I want to go on time?**

A. **The Oracle that is the Daily Bulletin will tell you where and when events are taking place and the very handy map which you will find in your goody bags or obtain from the hotel desk will help you get there. Also, we in Bermuda are a helpful and friendly lot, so just ask – anyone and nicely!**

Oh, and by the way, our Directors are a perfect fit for this kind and gentle tournament so they don't get annoyed very easily – that said, there are few absolutes in life so don't push them too far!

If you only attend one tournament in your lives, make sure it's this one.

The most professional and friendly tournament I've ever attended. Lots of good will, class and gracious, friendly people.

Q. **If I'm here alone, where can I find a partner? Or, if I'm here with my partner, where will we find team mates?**

A. **We have the greatest Matchmaking Madam in Judy Bussell, ably assisted by John Glynn and Tracy Nash. Many a winning union has been forged by them over the years. Oh, and FYI, you're never alone or without mates at the Bermuda Regional!**

Q. **What are the table fees, what are the opportunities for Gold Points, and what are Championship Events?**

A. **The answers to all these questions can all be found in this very bulletin on pages 2 and 3.**

Because the Bermuda Regional has always occupied such a distinguished place on the international bridge scene, many Bridge legends such as Schenken, Landy, Stayman, Goren and Sobel (see page 17 for a classic Sobel hand), have all played and won here, leaving their names writ large on our magnificent trophies.
So, if you play well enough this week, swizzling clear of too many Dark and Stormies, and win a major prize, your name will be etched alongside the very greatest in the game.

Q. **I've heard about the great hospitality at the Bermuda Regional. What entertainment is there in addition to bridge?**

A. **Umm, where do we start? The Bermuda Regional Tournament is famed for its fun and friendliness and the Twice as Nicers have worked hard to ensure that this year is just as - er – nice as ever. Bridge games are scheduled morning, afternoon and most evenings (we couldn't avoid this because it is, after all, a bridge tournament!) but we also have a variety of (mostly complimentary) pre-game and post-game events and entertainment. These include informative, fun-filled panel shows and expert lectures from well-known bridge players and pundits, a Swizzle and Stormy Soireé after tonight's game, and our delicious tea and scones after most afternoon sessions (Sunday – Thursday). Finally, the week wouldn't be complete without the Hamilton Hop, our signature Gala Prizegiving and Dinner on the final night, followed by daring dancing till the late hours. These events are fully and often publicized in the daily bulletin so be sure to devour it every day and get your early nights when you can!**

This was my first tournament and It was outstanding. It sets a high benchmark for my next one. I'll definitely return.

The welcoming Swizzle and Stormy Soireé after the game tonight should kick-start the revels very nicely for the rest of the week.

I've been attending this tournament for more than thirty years and I will return. I tell everyone that it's the best tournament on the planet.

Tuck into our afternoon teas with those scrumptious scones. Jam or cream first?

Getting in shape for the Friday Night Hamilton Hop!

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL FAQ's and VISITORS' VIEWS

"You SHALL go to the Bermuda Regional, Cinderella, but not dressed like that!

Q. You refer to 'formal' dress for some events. Does this mean a tux, or are a jacket and tie sufficient? And are you brave enough to give advice on what women should wear on these occasions?

A. The key notion here is elegance, for which our Regional is famed, so a jacket and tie are sufficient for men (and women, if they so choose) at the opening Charity Game as well as for the Friday Night Prizegiving and Gala Dinner Dance, although many players favour tuxes for both these events (one year, Suzie Owen, wife of Ernie Owen after whom the Charity event is named, wore a tux for that event and looked fabulous). For women (and men if they so choose) cocktail wear, especially at the Opening night Charity Game and increasingly at the Gala event has become more usual. However, as there is no such concept as being overdressed at THIS Regional, should you decide to dust off the diamanté and roll out the rhinestones for the last night, you will earn admiring glances wherever you swish. On the other hand, if you haven't packed your tux, your ball gown or your little black dress, anything but rags (see Cinders cartoon) will do – we have complete faith in your dress sense. But, come on, Bridge Players, let's show the Princess how to put on the Ritz!

For all standard games, 'resort casual' is the norm.

Elegant, exquisite, wonderful, friendly, efficient and professional. I cannot say enough about this tournament.

You Bermudians certainly know how to throw a bridge party!

Q. I have been coming to the Bermuda Regional for many years and I notice a new feature at the Prizegiving and Gala Dinner Dance this year called the Gala Raffle. What is this?

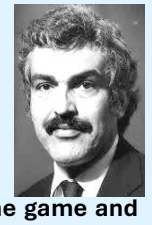
A. Welcome back and thank you for your support over the years. In their eternal niceness, the Twice as Nicers have added a new feature to the Friday night's festivities - the Gala Raffle - which will give every attendee of the event the chance to win a sensational prize such as a complimentary night at the HP for the Bermuda Regional 2026 or a complimentary flight to and from Bermuda for the Bermuda Regional 2026.

At the Bermuda Regional, you meet the youngest and best- looking people of all.

Q. What activities are there for non-Bridge playing spouses and travel companions?

A. You may already have seen that the HP has top notch swimming, spa and gym facilities, not to mention a world-class art collection (one visitor last year said, "The art in the hotel made my heart sing as I walked around." For adventures further afield, check out the sightseeing tips on the next page in "Spaces for Spouses, Places for Partners".

ERNIE OWEN by JACK RHIND and BILL SOUSTER



Ernie Owen was one of the most successful and accomplished Bermudians ever to play the game of duplicate bridge. Returning to Bermuda after successfully completing an engineering degree in the UK, he joined with Malcolm Lewis to make a very successful partnership and to become part of several Bermuda teams that competed at the top level of the game.

Ernie's good nature and tremendous sense of humour made him a very popular player with everyone. He loved the game and formed many different partnerships with different players over the years. He also won numerous Bermuda Bridge Club championships with a number of different partnerships. Regardless of the level of the event, Ernie was always the consummate good sport with everyone.

One of the things that I will always remember about playing with Ernie was his ability to put his partner at ease. If Ernie was playing a difficult contract and was going to make it, he would look across at me and wink! This told me that all was well. Of course, no wink meant we were in big trouble!

Ernie's long-time, regular partner, Bill Souster, remembers: *Ernie was a superlative player and partner. Shortly after we started playing together in the early 1990s we competed in the Bermuda Open Pairs Championship. On an early board we had a misunderstanding and doubled the opponents into game, which proved to be cold. Ernie returned his cards to the board impassively and without a word, after which we smashed the session and won the event. I knew then that this partner was a keeper.*

In 1994, playing in the Bermuda Bowl tri-country play off qualifier, the Bermuda team defeated the Mexicans and only lost narrowly to Canada on the final day. The Canadian team went on to win the silver medal in the Bermuda Bowl itself. This was our proudest moment, and sharply emphasised the terrible loss to the Bermuda bridge community when Ernie tragically died in a road accident shortly afterwards.

RAMBLINGS-ER-RUMBLINGS FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP
THE PROPHET EZEKIEL REVEALETH HIMSELF

And it it has come to pass that, as in days of old, the mighty Prophet Ezekiel hath once again descended from the mountaintop to spread the word amongst the faithful so that anybody who hath ears to hear let them hear.

And his wisdom can be found, not in burning bushes nor yet in angelic visitations, but in this very Rag where anybody who hath eyes to see let them see.

And he hath also commandeth us to appear at his panel show on Wednesday, where he and his host of other god-like beings shall comforteth us still in the valley of bad results, and shall restoreth our faith in our bridge powers and, yea, verily, lead us even unto glory.

And, lo, on the last day, he hath prepared a table (dinner not bridge) for himself at the Friday Night Feast from which he will delivereth such tidings of grace and joy to the people assembled there that they will rejoiceth like Babylonians and dance like Dervishes through the night and beg to dwell in the house of the Hamilton Princess all the days of their lives for ever and ever, amen.

These are the words of the Prophet Himself and cannot be independently verified
See opposite for more words of the Prophet on Old Chestnuts.

SPACES FOR SPOUSES; PLACES FOR PARTNERS
SIGHTSEEING TIPS FOR NON-PLAYING VISITORS

JITNEY JAUNTS

If it's lying on one of Bermuda's legendary beaches you're seeking, then the complimentary hotel jitney will take you to (and even pick you up from) the H.P's South Shore Beach Club. Ask for a Jitney schedule from the front desk, enjoy your jaunt along the lovely South Shore, and don't forget the factor cream, sun worshippers!

ON THE BUSES

Get taken for a ride and enjoy every minute of it on one of Bermuda's buses. You can go east to the old town of St. George's, Bermuda's historic capital, or west to the naval dockyard of Somerset, where there is also a local craft market, and all points in between. The bus station is a 15-minute walk from the HP - turn right at the hotel entrance and walk along Pitt's Bay Road until you reach the Bird Cage; turn left up Queen Street and walk to the very top; turn right along Church Street and the Bus Station is just past the traffic lights on the left. The wheels on the buses turn round and round, not all day long, but with pleasing regularity.

MERRY FERRY FUN

Explore Bermuda from the vantage point of her waterways, or, in the witty and whimsical words of the Department of Tourism's own promo, "Sea Bermuda". Accessing the website Bermuda Ferry Schedule | Go To Bermuda will introduce you to all the info you need.

The nearest ferry stop is a ten-minute walk away. Follow directions to the Bird Cage described above; when you reach this landmark, the ferry terminal will be on your right and it will all be plain sailing from there.

However you choose to see these islands, you'll soon discover, in the words of a popular local song,
"Bermuda is another world."

As an alternative to these independent expeditions, you might want to try
https://www.viator.com/bermuda/tours-tickets
for a more organised adventure.
For a definitive guide to Bermuda, download the FREE
Bermuda.com app

The
Bermuda Bridge Community would like to thank
the Bermuda Department of Tourism,
and
International General Insurance
for their very generous and continued support
of the Bermuda Regional, 2025.

ON THE ONE HAND: SO BRILLIANT SOBEL

During Charles Goren's partnership with Helen Sobel, it was not unusual for kibitzers to be stacked four-deep. On one occasion, one such spectator whispered to Helen Sobel: "How does it feel to play with an expert?" to which Sobel replied sweetly, "I don't know, you'll have to ask my partner!"

And, lest ye doubt her claim, take a look at the following, which not only showcases Sobel's brilliance, but also illustrates the importance of deducing from the available evidence:

Dlr: E
Vul: Both

	North	
	♠ 85 ♥10742 ♦ A963 ♣ K54	
West		East
♠10942 ♥3 ♦Q854 ♣10872		♠AK ♥KJ986 ♦102 ♣J963
	Sobel ♠QJ763 ♥AQ5 ♦KJ7 ♣AQ	

The Bidding:

N	E	Sobel	W
	1H	Dbl	Pass
2D	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the ♣2 which Sobel won with the Ace. There was no clear route to 9 tricks and Sobel astonished the audience when she advanced the ♠3, felling a high honour from East! She had worked out that East had to have the ♠AK for his opening bid, and that West's lead, suggesting a 4-card club suit, marked him for 4 spades, since he was known to be short in hearts and would likely have led a 5-card suit if he had one. Not 9 but 10 tricks were easily made!

"You go, girl!" about sums it up!

Sobel

Goren

Both Sobel and Goren have won Bermuda Regional trophies in bygone days,
which just goes to show what illustrious company you're in when you play at the Bermuda Regional.

A RIGHT HAND THE ANCIENT PROPHET EZEKIEL ON AN OLD CHESTNUT

This hand is verily an 'old chestnut', meaning that this sort of hand has been around through the ages and no matter how many times players see the right play in print, the chances are that they will become stiff necked and err at the table!

One of the prime areas where non-expert players go wrong is in trump management – they usually draw trumps too early for fear of an opposing ruff and then realise their mistake when the hand is over. Players usually play in a suit because there is a need for some ruffs – if you are able to draw all trumps, leaving dummy with none, and are still able to make the contract, then perhaps you should have been in No Trump!

This deal came up in a team game and the contract was 4♥ at both tables. Each West began by leading the king of spades. When that held, both West players continued with the queen of spades, also winning the trick, and the third round of spades was ruffed by both declarers.

Dealer South
East Vulnerable

	♠763 ♥KQ5 ♦A1053 ♣K75	
♠KQ10 ♥762 ♦KJ6 ♣10932		♠A9852 ♥84 ♦Q874 ♣J6
	♠J4 ♥AJ1093 ♦92 ♣AQ84	

At the first table, declarer decided that he probably needed a 3-3 club break to make his contract (there is a potential squeeze play available in clubs-diamonds but that gets complicated). So, this declarer ruffed the third spade, drew trumps, played the last trump hoping for a favourable discard from an opponent, and then played clubs. When clubs were not 3-3 he lost a club and a diamond for down one.

At the other table, declarer cashed the jack and king of trumps at tricks four and five. Then, leaving the last defensive trump outstanding, he cashed the ace, king and queen of clubs. If the suit had been 3-3, declarer would have drawn the last trump and claimed ten tricks (five trumps, four clubs and a diamond). However, declarer had picked up an extra chance – the defender with four clubs had three trumps. So, declarer ruffed his remaining club in dummy, and cashed the ace of diamonds for his eighth trick, with two high trumps in hand to come to make his contract. Excellent technical play by this declarer!

And what would happen if one of the opponents ruffed the third round of clubs? You would still have a trump in dummy to ruff the fourth club, and you would go the same down one had you played for 3-3 clubs, but here declarer created an extra chance which worked!

And the Prophet saw what this declarer had done
and behold it was very good.
And the evening and the morning
were the first day of the Tournament.

TAKE THE ANNUAL PSET: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SECTION TOP & EVENT PRIZES

Every year, there arises some confusion over the difference between **section top prizes and event prizes**, and especially over who qualifies for which prize, so here's the definitive a-z on these awards.

If you come **TOP** of your **SECTION** in any event, you qualify for one of the – er - **SECTION TOP PRIZES, which are fabulous,** and can be collected from the - er - **SECTION TOP DESK before and usually after any game session.**

If you have won the **ENTIRE EVENT**, however, you qualify for one of the – er - **EVENT PRIZES, which are even more fabulous,** and can be collected in the same way as the Section Top prizes and which will also earn you a **blessing from the Prophet** and a **piece of silverware** at the **Gala Prize-giving** ceremony on Friday.

It is, of course, entirely possible to win **both** a section top prize **and** an event prize at the same time or at various different times during the week, in which case you may collect both as described above.

Below is the now annual PSET
(Prizes for Sections and Events Test)
to help you all, especially our first-time visitors,
and those who've simply forgotten it all,
with the above intricacies.

Please note that there is no prize on offer for the most correct answers in the PSET as this would only muddy the waters even more.

1. **If you come TOP OF YOUR SECTION in any event, for which of the following do you AUTOMATICALLY qualify?**
   a) a trophy b) a section top prize c) an Oscar

2. **If you win A SECTION TOP PRIZE, where do you go to collect it?**
   a) the Section Tops/Prizes Desk b) Hollywood c) the hotel's reception desk

3. **If you win an ENTIRE EVENT, for which of the following do you AUTOMATICALLY qualify?**
   a) an event prize b) a Nobel Award c) Bermuda citizenship

4. **If you win AN EVENT, where do you go to collect your prize?**
   a) the Section Tops/Prizes Desk b) Sweden c) Government House

5. **If you win AN EVENT, which of the following will you NOT receive?**
   a) an event prize b) a trophy and a blessing c) a luxury cruise

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. **If you win a section top, you also automatically win an Event Prize.**

2 **If you win an event, you also automatically win a Section Top Prize.**

3 **If you win both, you can collect them at the same time.**

4 **If you win an Event Prize and you're still here on Friday, you'd better dress up in your finery for the Gala Prize Giving**

5 **If you win a Section Top Prize, you'd better dress up in your finery for the Gala Prize Giving**

6 **If this quiz goes on much longer, I won't make it to the next GAME, let alone to that Gala Prize Giving**

THE DAILY BULLETIN: SEND YOUR STORY AND/OR PICS TO THE JUNELAND ROOM LOCATED ON SIX

Lots of space has been left in each bulletin for your stories and achievements, so get busy getting in touch.

The Bulletin Room is the Juneland Room located on the 6th floor.
The Bulletin Editor, however, can more often than not be found lounging elegantly (well, lounging at least) around the Hospitality Desk, heckling the locals.

Collar her at any time for a chat, especially if you are the bearer of good news, bad news, any news at all, or if you achieve any milestones (in bridge or otherwise) while you're with us.
Or send stuff to
janetev50@hotmail.co.uk
Come on, we'd love to hear your news and we're interested in absolutely everything!
Don't forget to include your name and where you're from so that we can point the finger at you – er – give you the thumbs up for your efforts!

ANSWERS TO THE PSET

1. **er - duh - b**
2. **actually a, but would have been b if the airlines been more co-operative!**
3. **a, but Bermuda is gradually relaxing its criteria for citizenship so c could be on the cards in the future**
4. **c but nearly b - those airlines again!**
5. **c - we just couldn't risk the ole Bermuda Triangle!**

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. **False.** If you have played well in both sections, this outcome is more likely, but you may have triumphed in one section and come a cropper in another.

2. **False**. You may have won the event by sizzling in the sections without actually topping any of them

3. **True**. Both may be collected from the Section Tops/Prizes Desk and Event wins will be further honoured at the Gala.

4. **True**. At said Shindig, you will receive a call from the Prophet to step up into the limelight where you will be handed a trophy by someone worthy and have your photo taken for the worldwide web so that everyone you hold near and dear will see you and applaud and/or envy you no end (much like this sentence!)

5. **True.** This is a trick question as, although nothing that happens at answer 4 above will **AUTOMATICALLY** happen to you, the Prize Giving Bash is glamorous anyway and you won't want to look a frump. If, however, you have won a Section Top Prize **AND ALSO** an Event Prize, then the whole dog and pony show described above is, indeed, unleashed upon your glorious self.

6. **Soooo True.** But the Crown and Anchor Bar dispenses particularly stiff restoratives and has been especially trianed to deal with the onslaught.

Have mercy on us, Bartender!
We've just finished our PSETs!