The Fairmont Hamilton Princess Bermuda

The Bermuda Regional Bridge Tournament, 2026

Editor: Janet Evans **Saturday, January 31st** ***Bulletin No.1***

COSHAM AND RHIND HOLD ALL THE TRICKS FOR A TOURNAMENT COUP IN '26

Once again this year, Bermuda Bridge has dealt you a dynamic doubleton to run its showcase tournament, and this winning combination is … Steve Cosham (left) and Lisa Rhind (er –right), an Ace Brace on the Case to ensure that the Bermuda Regional remains the top-flight, spectacular and glittering event that our supporters have come to expect and which it has always been.

If you have attended our Regional in the past, you will not have forgotten the dashing Steve Cosham, who has over the years accelerated many a heart rate in the splendid ceremonial uniform of a decorated ex-policeman (Be Prepared– he'll be wearing this very same uniform tonight, so bring anti-swoon smelling salts), in which former life he was and will forever be affectionately known as Constable Cosh-'Em.

He has also served as Chair of Bermuda's National Disasters Committee, so there aren't many issues which might arise this week that will unduly challenge him. "All my training has taught me to cope with most extreme situations," he confirms, "but I must confess that I'm rather anxious about keeping up with my Co-Chair on the dance floor (see below). I mean, I think I could manage the Military Two-Step with no problem but my many medals would jingle all the way in anything more lively and would certainly slow down my electric sliding to a standstill"

The aforementioned Co-Chair with all the right moves is Lisa Rhind, whom most followers of our Tournament will know instantly, for she has been involved in Regional administration over many years and therefore brings a wealth of useful knowledge and experience to this post. Or you might recognise her from the dance floor where, as alluded to above, she has long been a leading exponent of the group dance known as the Electric Slide. "Yes, I do enjoy a good boogie," enthuses this Dancing Queen, "so I'm really looking forward to the disco on Friday and I fully intend to inject some of that same razzle dazzle into my Committee work this week so get ready for a sizzling good time!"

To keep up-to-date with all that's happening in the upcoming electrifying days at the bridge table and elsewhere, check out 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 Committee Members on the case with the Ace Brace (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. Also, 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 even the most bridge-brain fuddled of you where you are and help you get to where you're going.

After all, our Ace Brace and Others on the Case are very glad you came in 2026
and want you to avoid any unnecessary shuffling as they hand you the best deal of your lives this week.

If you haven't already done so, please remember to REGISTER for the Tournament as soon as you arrive. The Registration Desk is set up in the Harbourview Ballroom, where EVERYONE who has registered (today or in advance) can collect their Goody Bags and sign up for the Prizegiving, Dinner and Disco. Or simply use the QR code opposite to register - it couldn't be simpler! But, if you use the code, don't forget to collect that Goody Bag!

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

Today's Programme

7:45 P.M.

The Ernie Owen Memorial Stratified Championship Charity Pairs and 199er Game
(The Charity Game is named for a much-loved local player – forever remembered at this Tournament)
(Trophy Event in Bold: Dress-Up Suggested – see FAQs page later in this bulletin 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 Soirée in the Trudeau Room

BERMUDA REGIONAL 2026 PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST

7:45 p.m.
The Ernie Owen Memorial Charity Pairs- a Stratified Championship Event
(dressing up suggested - see page 13 for guidance)
199er Game (0-199 Masterpoints)

Join us after the game in the Trudeau Room for the Complimentary Swizzle and Stormy Soirée

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

9:30 a.m.
Swiss Teams 1 (Session 1 of 2) - *finishes tomorrow morning*
Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Game 1 of 3*)* – *series continues this afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 Masterpoints)
2:00 p.m.
Championship Bracketed Round-Robin Teams (Session 1 of 2) - *finishes this evening*
Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Game 2 of 3) - *series continues this evening*
199er Game (0-199 points)
7:45 p.m.
Championship Bracketed Round-Robin Teams (Session 2 of 2) - *finishes tonight*
Open Side Game – Pembroke Series (Game 3 of 3) – *this series ends and a new series of Open Side Games begins tomorrow*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss today's Complimentary Expert Lecture at 12:30 p.m. in the Trudeau Room

Join us today at 4:45p.m. in the Trudeau Room for Complimentary Tea and Scones

Please note that all games cost $20 per person per session and must be paid for in cash.

Please note that, in the various series of stand-alone Open Side Games, you must play in at least two games in the same series to be eligible for Gold Points

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

9:30 a.m.
Swiss Teams 1 (Session 2 of 2) - *finishes this morning*
Open Side Game – Paget Series (Game 1 of 3 -) - *series continues this afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 points)
2:00 p.m.
Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 1 of 4) – *continues each afternoon to Thursday afternoon*
Open Side Game – Paget Series (Game 2 of 3) - *series continues this evening*
199er Game (0-199 points)
7:45 p.m.
Championship Stratiflighted Pairs 1 AX/BC (Session 1 of 2) - ***finishes tomorrow evening***
Bermuda Gold Pairs 1 - 0-750 points (Session 1 of 2) - *finishes tomorrow evening*
Open Side Game – Paget Series (Game 3 of 3) – *this series ends and a new series of Open Side Games begins tomorrow*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss today's Complimentary Expert Lecture at 12:30 p.m. in the Trudeau Room

Join us today at 4:45 p.m. in the Trudeau Room for Complimentary Tea and Scones

ALERT!
Please remember that all games cost $20 per person per session and MUST BE PAID FOR IN CASH, and that in the Open Series of Side Games, you must play in at least TWO GAMES IN THE SAME SERIES to be eligible for Gold Points.

BERMUDA REGIONAL 2026 PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

9:30 a.m.

Stratiflighted Pairs 1 AXB/CD (Session 1 of 2) - *continues this afternoon*
Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Game1 of 3) – *continues this afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 2 of 4) - *continues to Thursday afternoon*
Stratiflighted Pairs 1 AXB/CD (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes this afternoon*
Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Game 2 of 3) - *continues this evening*
199er Game (0-199 points)

7:45 p.m.

Championship Stratiflighted Pairs 1 AX/BC (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes tonight*
Bermuda Gold Pairs 1 - 0-750 points (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes tonight*
Open Side Game – Warwick Series (Game 3 of 3) –*this series ends and a new series of Open Side games begins tomorrow*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss today's Complimentary Expert Lecture at 12:30 p.m. in the Trudeau Room

Join us today at 4:45 p.m. in the Trudeau Room for Complimentary Tea and Scones

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

9:30 a.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs 2 AX/BC (Session 1 of 2) – *continues tomorrow morning*
The Bermuda Gold Rush Pairs 2 - 0-750 points (Session 1 of 2) – *continues tomorrow morning*
Open Side Game – Smiths Series – (Session 1 of 3) – *continues tomorrow morning*
199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 3 of 4) - *continues tomorrow afternoon*
Bracketed Pairs (Session 1 of 2) – *continues tomorrow afternoon*
Open Side Game – St. George's Series – (Session 1 of 3) – *continues tomorrow afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss today's Complimentary Panel Show at 12:30 p.m. in the Trudeau Room

Join us today at 4:45 p.m. in the Trudeau Room for Complimentary Tea and Scones

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

9:30 a.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Pairs 2 AX/BC (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes this morning*
The Bermuda Gold Rush Pairs 2 - 0-750 points (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes this morning*
Open Side Game – Smiths Series (Session 2 of 3) - *continues tomorrow morning*
199er Game (0-199 points)

2:00 p.m.

The Championship Bracketed KO Teams (Session 4 of 4) – *finishes this afternoon*
Bracketed Pairs (Session 2 of 2) – *finishes this afternoon*
Open Side Game – St. George's Series – (Session 2 of 3) – *continues tomorrow afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss today's Complimentary Expert Lecture at 12:30 p.m. in the Trudeau Room

Join us today at 4:45 p.m. in the Trudeau Room for Complimentary Tea and Scones

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

9:30 a.m.

The Championship Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (Session 1 of 2) - *continues this afternoon*
Open Side Game – Smiths Series (Session 3 of 3) – *finishes this morning*
199er Game (0-199 points)

1:15 p.m.

The IGI Championship Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (Session 2 of 2) - *finishes this afternoon*
Open Side Game – St. George's Series – (Session 3 of 3) – *finishes this afternoon*
199er Game (0-199 points)

Don't miss the Bermuda Regional's Sensational Prizegiving, Dinner and Disco at 6:30 p.m.
Celebrating Success, Survival and You.
Tickets cost $135 (may be charged to your room) and include two cocktails, a four-course dinner, and entry into the Bermuda Regional Draw.

MORE SCOOP ON THE SCHEDULE FOR 2026

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 CHAMPIONSHIP 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 togethe

OTHER EVENTS STRATA:

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

Eligibility for any event is by individual player.
Stratification within any event is done by average masterpoints.
Strata may be modified at the Directors' discretion.

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

Dressing Up Suggested
(See FAQs later in this bulletin for guidance)

ENTRY FEES

$20 per player per session and MUST be paid for in cash.

"With these entry fees, darling,
I shall only be using that pass card as a fan!
And goodness knows where I'm going to stash
the entry cash wearing THIS skimpy thing!"

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, to compete in a 199er game BOTH players must have fewer than 200 masterpoints.

(See also Professor Pete's Pointers for more useful info)

PROSPECTING FOR BERMUDA GOLD

With the exception of the Opening Night Charity Pairs and the 199er Pairs, GOLD points are available in all events.

Please note, however, that in the single session Open Side Series of games you must play in at least two games in the same series to be eligible for GOLD

Check with the Directors for further details.
All other awards are RED points.

NOTHING SLAPDASH ABOUT TRACY NASH; UNIT 198'S NEW PRESIDENT SAYS HELLO AND WELCOME

Once again this year, there's a woman on top of everything, as Tracy Nash steps up as Bermuda's new A.C.B.L. President and holder of several other key administrative posts in local Bridge governance. Don't think for a moment, though, that you can take advantage of her newness to these positions to get the better of her at or away from the bridge table, for in her professional life as a nurse she has learned how to draw blood at the drop of a hat-pin and to stick needles in real people not effigies.

"Well, I prefer to think of myself as Nurse Nightingale rather than Nurse Ratched," laughs Tracy, "and am here to help you with whatever I can this week. As I have said several times before, however, curing Partner's brain freeze, poor hearing or defective eyesight are all areas outside of my skill set, and, to boot (pun definitely intended, looking at the two pics opposite), I sincerely hope I won't have to attend at either of these two situations at any time this week.

My bridge partner signals a lot.

In addition to these local Bridge posts, Tracy is also a qualified ambassador for the Bermuda Tourism Authority so she knows all about giving a good time to all. "Yes, "she agrees, "! am very happy to prescribe kind cards and warm weather for all our patients – er – players this week and promise you that we locals will take good hospital – er hospitable - care of you while you're here. Thank you all for your support, play the best bridge of your lives (but please relapse your standards at my table), and have lots of fun!

There was absolutely no need for this, Partner.
Two hearts making six isn't so bad!
A plus is a plus, after all!

BREAKFAST WITH THE BULLETIN

In line with other tournaments,
and in support of sustainability,
the Daily Bulletin is now ONLY available
IN CYBER SPACE
at
WWW.BERMUDAREGIONAL.COM
so there's even more than enough digital cheese
in the online Bulletin for everybody's Breakfast Bagel!

In the unlikely event that you have left all your digital devices at home, there are desk-top computers available to you on the mezzanine floor.

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 friend, the frog.
(Kermit's green with envy and it isn't easy being green)
for his continued generosity and helpfulness
with respect to Regional printing.

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
who will be waiting to nab 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 stunning display of works by the likes of
Pablo Picasso, Damien Hirst, Jasper Johns, Jeff Koons, and Andy Warhol,
to name but a few of the legends on show here.
One visiting bridge player once 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 down the rabbit hole to Art Wonderland.

Oh, and be aware that this precious horde is well protected by 375 security cameras – after all, this isn't the Louvre!

Munch may have painted this famous pic
(not in the HP collection)
after his Partner had trumped his winning Ace!

PROFESSOR PETE'S POINTERS TO UNDERSTANDING THE REGIONAL SCHEDULE

by ACBL Director Peter Donnellan

Never let it be said that the On the Casers don't listen to your suggestions and do what they're told. As a response to your feedback in the past, local ACBL director Peter Donnellan has been dragooned 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 2026, 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 ACBL Director Peter Donnellan

EVENTS EXPLAINED (contd)

BRACKETED CHAMPIONSHIP KNOCK-OUT TEAMS - 4 Session Event - each afternoon Monday-Thursday
These are teams' games, starting at 1:30 pm. 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.

199er 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.

OPEN SIDE GAMES
These are open **stratified** games offered every day from Sunday 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 three-game series (Pembroke, Paget, Warwick, Smiths and St George's), 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. Players must compete in at least two games in any series to qualify for Gold Points.

CHAMPIONSHIP STRATIFLIGHTED PAIRS. Monday/Tuesday Evenings and Wednesday/Thursday 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/Tuesday Evenings, and, separately, Wednesday/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 – Sunday and Monday Mornings – a two-session event and **Friday Morning and Afternoon** – a "STRATIFLIGHTED" two-session CHAMPIONSHIP 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.

"Oh, thank heavens! A fourth!"

"Well, hon, we had a bit of excitement at bridge club today!"

ON THE CARDS FROM THE ON THE CASERS

DESK ORGANIZER

The Registration, the Hospitality, and the Partnerships desks are all located inside the Playing Area in the Harbourview Ballroom and are open from 2 p.m. today and before each playing session from tomorrow

See below for slightly different info on the Prizes and Section Tops Desk

F.Y.I.

EVENT PRIZES AND SECTION TOP PRIZES

Event Prize Winners (congrats!) and Section Toppers (hurrah!) may collect their prizes FROM MONDAY ONWARDS from the - er -

Prizes and Section Tops Desk,

in the playing area,
every day 1/2 hour before any session.
There are three categories of these prizes:
Championship Wins
One Section Top Win
Two Section Tops Win
(so, you might want to wait to claim your section top win if you're on particularly great form and expect to win two!)
See tomorrow's bulletin for even more info on these prizes

F.Y.I.

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

Sunday 1st – 12:30 p.m.
Hand's On with Jeff Hand
Monday 2nd – 12:30 p.m.
TBD
Tuesday 3rd – 12:30 p.m.
TBD
Wednesday 4th – 12:30 p.m.
The Prophet's Panel Show
Revelations
Thursday 5th – 12:30 p.m.
TBD

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!

F.Y.I.

WAKE UP AND DRINK THE COFFEE!

This year, the HP is trialling morning tea and coffee at $5 per cup outside the playing area on Sunday and Monday.
If this proves popular, the hotel will continue this service through the week.
If not, no plea on our part will be worth a hill of beans.

So, please wake up and drink up!

TEA FOR YOU IN TRUDEAU

Join us for our delicious signature tea and scones after the afternoon sessions every day Sunday to Thursday in Trudeau from 4:45 p.m. and help settle the age-old question: cream or jam first?

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 cologne, do you, partner?"

THE HASTY TASTY EXPRESS LUNCH SPECIAL TOMORROW'S MENU

MUST BE ORDERED A DAY IN ADVANCE
Pick up an order form from the Hospitality Desk, and pay as a charge to your room or with cash.
All prices are inclusive of grats

Soup Only	$12.50
Sandwich Only	$13.50
Soup and Half Sandwich Combo	$17
Soup and Full Sandwich Combo	$21

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 TRUDEAU ON MEZZANINE FLOOR
From 12:15 p.m.

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

ON THE CARDS FROM THE ON THE CASERS

GOODY BAGS

If you haven't already done so, register soon
at the Tournament Registration Desk
in the Harbourview Ballroom
(or by using the QR code on the front page)
and collect your fabulous welcoming Goody Bag from the On the Casers who are busy being on the case there.

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

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

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.

F.Y.I.

FIVE GO ON ABOUT MULTI 2

The Famous Five-Star Directors 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.

END OF REGIONAL PARTY

Come and celebrate Success, Survival and You at the Regional's glitzy evening of merrymaking on Friday 6th.

This exciting event will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. in the stunning Princess Rooms, followed by a scrumptious dinner, a glittering prize-giving, and finally disco dancing to all your fave tunes.

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 10-12 fellow revellers yourselves or pin your hopes on a trusty Excel spread sheet.

Tickets for everyone cost $135 (incl. grats, two complimentary cocktails, a delicious four course dinner, and free entry into the fabulous prize draw, and may be ordered as soon as you like from the Hospitality Desk, purchased either with cash or as a room charge.
If you have any special dietary requirements, please make these known when signing up.

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 also "Cashing In" below.

CASHING IN!

Please remember that game fees must be paid IN CASH. There is a cash machine in the main lobby opposite the Hotel Registration Desk.
Please note that it dispenses only Bermudian money.

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 Star 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 at the Bermuda Regional!

F.Y.I.

BERMUDAIR

The Bermuda Bridge Community would like to thank BermudAir for its continued generosity to the Bermuda Regional.

FOREVER 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 (thank you for choosing us), 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 has been considered the jewel in Bermuda's tourism crown.

Princess Louise, The Duchess of Argyll, an early celebrity influencer.

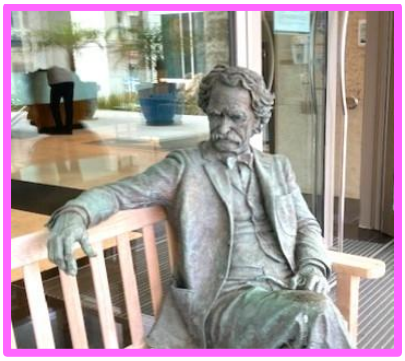
As word got out, celebrities started to flock here. Mark Twain (see pic below) visited Bermuda numerous times despite acute seasickness, and was a regular at the hotel, apparently enjoying smoking cigars on the hotel's veranda while he signed autographs, reciting poetry to adoring fans, and falling in 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 for the Allies. 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."

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 halfway up Bermudiana Road (turn right outside the Hotel entrance and take the second road on the left). Oh, dear, though, he certainly doesn't look too thrilled about the re-location!

Nevertheless, a word of advice from our Southern Sage as you approach your games this week seems apt:
"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.

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

And 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 disco 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's PR Tribe and cannot be independently verified.
See later bulletins for more of the Prophet's proclamations, otherwise known as His Old Chestnuts.

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

JITNEY JAUNTS

If it's lazing 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 go 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" (geddit?). 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,
BERMUDA so much more
for its very generous and continued support
of the Bermuda Regional, 2026.

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 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, Lively Bermuda Brunch ($78+grats) from 11:30 a.m.to 4:00 p.m. ON SUNDAYS ONLY and the Crown and Anchor Roast Dinner from 5:00 p.m. ON SUNDAYS ONLY
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.

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 entertainment between on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, 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 later in this bulletin for further details and tomorrow's menu.

At all hotel eating outlets, and wherever you go in town, don't forget to ask for the BERMUDA RESTAURANT WEEKS MENU.

THESE ARE EXCELLENT TWO OR THREE COURSE SPECIAL MENUS AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.

The Crown and Anchor has a special two-course lunch for $35 + grats
And a special three-course dinner for $59 +grats

www.gotobermuds.com/restaurant-weeks

IN ROOM DINING

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.

DINING IN AND EATING OUT

CERTAIN NOT TO LET YOU DOWN IF YOU CHOOSE TO EAT IN TOWN – OTHER NEARBY EATERIES - SEVEN-ELEVEN HEAVEN

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 SPECIAL MENUS AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.
www.gotobermuds.com/restaurant-weeks

Huckleberry – sea and farm to table - 2951640 – 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

Dèjá View – Asian delicacies with an international flair – 261-7354 - dejaviewbermuda.com/contact/ - turn right outside the hotel, walk past Waterloo Lane on the right and Dejá View is 100 yards further on the right.

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.

.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.

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 - NEWS ON BREWS FOR YOUS

Morning coffee and tea may, of course, be purchased from the Duchess Gelateria in the hotel lobby or, as a bold new feature this year, from outside the playing area from 8:00 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. where there will be a choice of regular or decaf coffee and tea for $5.00 per cup.
Please note that this feature is being trialled on Sunday and Monday morning and may be discontinued after that if demand is low, so wake up and drink the coffee!

Early risers, however, might want to combine their quest for caffeine with a short, brisk, wake-up walk and seek out 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

ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR PACKING GOODY BAGS

One of the biggest hands of the week must go to our young and industrious Goody Bag Packers, all of whom are enrolled in a youth bridge programme here which is part of achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

They are (L to R – back row)
Ray Richardson, Catherine Maddocks, Mirabella Lohan and Jens Drea and Clive Fristan (front row)

Talking of hands, the future of Bermuda is in very good ones if these aspirational and inspirational young people are anything to go by.

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL
FAQ's and VISITORS' VIEWS

To help everybody settle into our tournament and so that you may set your expectations at the appropriately high bar, the On the Casers have answered some 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. This is my first time at the Bermuda Regional and 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. Welcome, First-Timer, and thanks for coming. 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.

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 and they will do their very best to hook you up. 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 be found in this very bulletin on pages 2 and 3.

And please remember that table fees MUST be paid in CASH
CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CANNOT BE PROCESSED.

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

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

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

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.

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 16 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 become etched alongside the very greatest in the game.

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

The Bermuda Regional Daily Bulletin (now only digital) is a reflection of what happens to you at and away from the bridge table while you're here with us this week, and 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 and the door is usually open. The Bulletin Editor, however, can more often than not, be found lounging elegantly (well, lounging at least) around the Hospitality Desk, heckling passers-by.

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) this week.
Or send your 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!

THE BERMUDA REGIONAL
FAQ's and VISITORS' VIEWS

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

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 On the Casers have worked hard to ensure that this year is just as fun and friendly 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 Soirée after tonight's game, and our delicious tea and scones after most afternoon sessions (Sunday – Thursday). Finally, the week wouldn't be complete without our signature end of Regional Party which this year includes the prizegiving, dinner, and disco dancing to your fave tunes until 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!

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

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. For adventures further afield, check out the sightseeing tips on the next page in "Spaces for Spouses, Places for Partners".

Q. You refer to dressing up 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 and style, for which our Regional is well-known, so a jacket and tie are sufficient for men (and women, if they so choose) at the opening Charity Game, although tuxes have always been popular at this event (one year, Suzie Owen, wife of Ernie Owen after whom the Charity event is named, wore a tux on this night and looked fabulous). For women (and men if they so choose) cocktail wear at the Opening Night Charity Game has also become popular.

For the last night dinner and disco, jacket and tie and cocktail wear are also quite acceptable although, as we have introduced that exciting new disco vibe this year, you might want to sport something a little more glitzy in order to fully sparkle under the lights.

If you haven't packed your tux, your little black dress, or your disco clobber, don't worry and certainly don't miss out - anything but rags (see Cinders cartoon) will do – we have complete faith in your dress sense. But, come on, Bridge Players, if we can, let's show the Princess how to put on the Ritz!

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

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

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

In preparation for tonight's game, this player from the U.K. channels his inner 007 complete with the driest martini! And the name's Souster, Bill Souster.

You Bermudians certainly know how to throw a bridge party!

Q. What more can you tell me more about the Regional Prize Draw at the Friday Night Party.

A. Forever on the case, the On the Casers have retained the Regional Prize Draw (new last year) for the Friday night's festivities which will give four lucky recipients a complimentary night at the HP for the Bermuda Regional 2027 and one lucky recipient a complimentary round-trip flight for two donated by BermudAir.

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

On the subject of dress code, this painting, exhibited on the 6th floor, is entitled "Bermuda Dress". Just saying …

HANDS ME DOWN FROM HISTORY- FEMME FANTASTIQUE ET FEMME FATALE

ON THE ONE HAND: SOBEL, SO BRILLIANT

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 Sobel: "How does it feel to play with the world's top expert?" to which this former chorus girl with the Marx Brothers replied swiftly and sweetly, "Ask Charlie!"

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 deduction from the available evidence:

Dlr: E
Vul: Both

North
♠ 85
♥10742
♦ A963
♣ K54

West
♠10942
♥3
♦Q854
♣10872

East
♠AK
♥KJ986
♦102
♣J963

Sobel
♠QJ763
♥AQ5
♦KJ7
♣AQ

The Bidding:

N	E	Sobel	W
	1♥	Dbl	Pass
2♦	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!

Ten tricks and ten out of ten 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.

ON THE OTHER HAND: BENNETT, SO BRUTAL

Forever known thereafter as the Bennett Murder Hand, the exact composition of the cards could never later be recalled by the two shaken witnesses, but this reconstruction appeared in periodicals shortly following the 1929 crime:

Mrs Bennett
♠ A1063
♥1085
♦ 4
♣ A9842

Mr. Hofman
♠ Q72
♥ AJ3
♦ AQ1092
♣ J6

Mrs Hofman
♠ 4
♥ Q94
♦ KJ763
♣ Q753

Mr. Bennett
♠KJ985
♥K762
♦ 85
♣K10

THE BIDDING

Mr Bennett (S)	Mr Hofman (W)	Mrs Bennett (N)
1♠	2♦	4♠

THE PLAY

Hofman led with the A♦ then shifted to the J♣. According to the legend that has grown up around this hand, after winning the K♣, Bennett reportedly and (as it happened) fatally misguessed the location of the trump Q. In so doing, he cut himself off from Dummy's good clubs, ending up down two, despite the contract being eminently makeable in the opinions of such notables as Culbertson, Lenz, and ... er ... Mrs Bennett.

At this point, Myrtle Bennett called her husband "a bum bridge player", which would pass today as sweet talk, but then she went and fetched a loaded shotgun from her mother's bedroom, ("Don't do it, girl!" about sums up this situation at this stage) and shot her husband dead!

THE VERDICT

Although the eye-witness and physical evidence suggested that she had a) chased her husband around their apartment b) shot at him four times and c) hit him twice, the jury (presumably composed of frustrated spouses or beleaguered dummies or both) returned a verdict of "accidental death" and Mrs Bennett was able to collect on her husband's life insurance policy to the tune of $30,000, although, oddly, not a dime of this could buy her a bridge pro from that day on.

THE LEGACY

Lessons to be learned from this sorry affair include: never open light unless you're a hot-shot (geddit?) card player; never tempt your partner with excuses like, "You're gonna KILL me for this!"; never play bridge with your spouse; and if you do play bridge with your spouse, never EVER keep a loaded shotgun in the house.

The comedian George Burns once said:
"Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys.
It also separates husbands from wives!"

Well, it certainly separated Mr and Mrs Bennett!