



*Happy Independence Barbados*



## 31<sup>st</sup> ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

The Championships were played on Real Bridge <https://realbridge.online/> from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Barbados competed in the National Open Teams, National Women Teams and National Mixed Teams. Congrats to our Mixed Team, Douglas "Kip" Rotchell & Patricia Cummins and Harley Moseley & Roglyn Hinds for third place.

The League congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for winning the Women Championship, and Guadeloupe for the Open, Mixed and Senior Championships.

## BARBADOS NATIONAL TRIALS 2021

Trials played 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September on Real Bridge. The table below show the final positions:

Position	Name	Total
1	<b>Eleanor Dottin &amp; Lutz Dohnert</b>	103.83
2	<b>Leroy Lynch &amp; Neil Rechtman</b>	103.39
3	<b>Amanda Storey &amp; Norma Springer</b>	65.64
4	<b>Kip Rotchell &amp; Patricia Cummins</b>	40.81
5	<b>Harley Moseley &amp; Peter Norville</b>	-3.61
6	<b>Patricia Greenidge &amp; Roglyn Hinds</b>	-36.03
7	<b>Norma Morris &amp; Peter Nicholls</b>	-118.86
8	<b>Emar Edwards &amp; Rakem Lorde</b>	-147.17

The League was delighted to welcome our three youth players to the National Trials. These three young men, Emar Edwards, Rakem Lorde and Peter Nicholls, are graduates of the Combermere School Bridge Programme and indeed, the only graduates to remain committed to the game. We look forward to them forming the core of Team Barbados within a few years.

The Barbados Open and Women Teams were selected following the Trials.

### The Open Team:

Eleanor Dottin & Lutz Dohnert

Leroy Lynch & Neal Rechtman

Douglas "Kip" Rotchell & Patricia Cummins

### The Ladies Team

Amanda Storey & Norma Springer

Patricia Greenidge & Roglyn Hinds

## JIMMY COZIER BRIDGE CENTRE CLOSED

The playing room will remain closed for remainder of the year. Late October, a Morning Bridge Club player tested positive for Covid19 and was admitted to an isolation facility. Fortunately, all players at that game remained Covid-negative, and we were delighted when the affected player returned home.

As a precaution and for the mental well-being of members, in-person games are suspended for the remainder of the year.

The League regrets not hosting our long-staying visitors from Canada, Europe, the UK and the USA who winter in Barbados.

## SUN SEA & SLAMS 2022



We are 'systems on' for SSS 2022 scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February at Barbados Beach Club. The hotel reports bookings for 90 double occupancy rooms and more are expected. Once Barbados is opened to tourists and indoor sports are allowed, the tournament will be played.

Within current regulations, the tournament will be played in a 'COVID SAFE ZONE' as defined by the Barbados Covid19 Management Programme. Furthermore, all the legal and safety requirements concerning COVID-19 (including vaccination and tests) that are in effect for the period and the duration of the event will be strictly applied and respected.

This tournament is sanctioned by ACBL and current ACBL regulations require that all players, officials and playing room attendants be fully vaccinated.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



L to R: Graham Dann, Ian Osborne, Tony Watkins, Keith 'Spoon' Roach, Leroy Lynch, Dave Blackman, Patricia Cummins

## AFTER A YEAR OF 'RAMPANT' CHEATING, ELITE BRIDGE TRIES TO CLEAN UP

*As the pandemic forced most players online, the problem of cheating consumed the game's highest levels. Top players say a tight-lipped culture is finally changing.*

By [Alan Yuhas](#), Oct. 26, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/26/arts/contract-bridge-cheating.html>

In the USA, ten days after the first elite player confessed to cheating, a second said she had done it, too. A few months later, wealthy sponsors pleaded for players to clean up the game. Then officials suspended one top player, and another, and this summer 30 teams forfeited rather than play someone accused of cheating.

For over a year, the topic of cheating has consumed players in the highest levels of bridge. In interviews, top players, officials and data analysts described a surge in cheating as the coronavirus pandemic pushed players online, and a subsequent backlog of cases in the game's byzantine disciplinary system.

With online play, teammates could cheat effortlessly: talking side-by-side on the sofa, chatting by phone, or using spectator accounts to see everyone's cards; but despite assertions by some analysts, the extent of the problem remains unknown. "

### 'Rampant' Cheating and a 'Ridiculous' Set of Rules

With remote play, organizers couldn't look for secret signals, analyse video of important matches, or tell whether partners were talking. They had only a digital record of decisions in the game and an incredibly complicated set of rules. For example, the ACBL disciplinary code which until recently ran to more than 29,000 words, assumes the game is played by "gentlemen and honourable ladies." Indeed, the assumption is so strong that there still is a rule that threatens a player with suspension for publicly accusing another of cheating.

Serious cracks in that culture began in 2015 and continued to expand to snare experts, professional and 'normal people'. Sylvia Shi, a high-level player who was suspended last year until 2023 for online cheating, apologized in an open letter: "I didn't do it for money, glory, results, victories, some sort of fulfilment, or masterpoints," she said. "I did it because it was so, so easy, and so tempting."

### A Digital Record of Every Trick

Online platforms not only simplified cheating, but also make discovery easier post-play as there is a record of every bid and card played. Algorithms have been created and analysts are looking at patterns of odd decisions. Based on data beginning in March 2020, about two to 5 percent of all pairs playing online are cheating, a figure that translates to several hundred players in ACBL alone.

### A Threat to Bridge's Future

Prosecution is not always the answer as it is costly, time-consuming and stressful for both parties. Plus the challenge of explaining bridge to judges or arbiters — in the actual, non-bridge judicial system — adds a comic dimension.

Cheating will always be a problem to some degree but there is a lot of pressure for topflight players to do the right thing. Players and officials are concerned about the death of the

sport and are looking to get a better handle on cheating, and with more modern methods. They are working to rebrand the game, reinvigorate it, and keep it clean along the way.

(Edited by Norma Springer for this Newsletter)



Aspect of a Louis Jamme's original cartoon

<https://attemptedbloggery.blogspot.com/2020/03/louis-jamme-contract-bridge-signal.html>

## ODE TO BRIDGE

I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night,  
It's Amen to Staymen, I give up the fight.  
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles;  
I can't sleep at night for remembering doubles.

What to bid, what to lead, and which cards have been  
played?

Did my partner's discard mean she wanted a spade?  
So for now it's all over - I'm off to the blackwood,  
I'm bidding good riddance to Gerber and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain,  
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.  
I'm giving up bridge - tonight's a bad night,  
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's quite hopeless but tends to blame me,  
When we go down in four and we should be in three.  
And I sit there in dread when I hear her say "double",  
She does it a lot and it always means trouble.

My points are not high, and I'm wondering why,  
She keeps on and on bidding right up to the sky;  
We're in seven hearts and my nerves are all frayed,  
When wonder of wonders - the contract is made!

We've got all the tricks, the defenders look grey,  
And I have to admit that my partner's okay.  
But ... I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night,  
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight!

So I end with some words that I know to be true,  
Bridge is a game, not for me but for you.  
So be kind to your partners, and don't mind their cheek,  
For it's only a game - oh! and see you next week!  
(Shared by Douglas "Kip" Rotchell)

