



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

December 2017-January 2018 Vol 31 No 6

From the President



Well another year is gone by. This year has been a year of new initiatives and a lot of projects have been finished. The committee is still busy to improve our building and make our club more known in the community.

We will start advertising in our booklet which will reduced the cost for the Club of printing. Phil Chappel has done a lot of work to get local businesses interested. We will also be using libraries to try to get more persons interested in learning bridge or joining our club.

Lately we had some breakdowns at our club which were costly to have fixed. We are now 15 years in this building and can expect the need for maintenance to increase. By applying for grants we have tried to minimise the cost of maintenance to the club. We have applied for a grant for renovation of the toilets and more solar which will reduce our electricity bill.

The last two months we had some incidents between players when playing bridge. I wish to remind everyone that we should follow our bridge etiquette when playing.

This year is almost over and I thank all committee members for their dedication and enthusiasm to assist with the smooth running of the club. All committee members will stand down in January, and everyone can nominate for the next year 2018 . I hope that all current members will choose to return . As for myself I am happy to continue as President. The AGM will be held in February where the new committee will be announced. Please follow the announcements regarding the AGM on the notice board.

I also wish to thank all the members who assist in the running of the club so we all can enjoy playing bridge. I wish all members a happy and safe festive season and thank you all for your continued support for the club.

I am away till early January visiting family and friends in Holland. (I am actually writing this in Holland)

Thank you all for a great year of bridge and looking forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Robert Van Beest (President)

Christmas Party

The club party is on Saturday December 9.

- Arrive from 12.30 pm for a 1.00 pm start.
- No partner needed.
- No table fees.
- Mystery prizes during the day.
- Please bring a plate to share. Use disposable plates to minimise washing up.
- Refreshments after the end of play.
- All Members welcome.
- Marianne McPherson will again command the kitchen

Welcome New Members

Dorothy Gehrke,
Brian Pridham,
Cherlyn Rigney,

Liz Bowman,
Kelvin Wheeler

Standard Opening Leads (Which Card?)

The leads against suit contracts are fundamentally different to no-trumps. We will deal with **suit contracts** here. Standard leads are not **guaranteed** to succeed but defending over hundreds of hands they offer the best percentage of success.

Against a suit contract it is usually the first two rounds of a suit that are important so we concentrate on the quick trick potential of a suit, i.e. honour cards. In later rounds there is a high probability of them being ruffed.

1. From any honour sequence always lead the top honour. From an interior sequence lead the top of the internal honour sequence.

e.g. **KQxxx**
QJxx
AKxx
J10xx
KJ104
Q1097

(but not 109xx – the ten is not considered to be an honour for our purposes).

If holding:- **AKx** in one suit and **QJ10x** in another, lead the **Q** of the sequence. You may establish a winner in the suit while preserving the **AK** as entries.

2. From any four or more card honour suit lead 4th highest, and from any three carded honour suit lead lowest; this three card suit lead is rare and almost exclusively when leading partner's suit).

AJ54
Q863 **K102**
97

As West lead the 3, declarer plays the 4 from dummy. Knowing that partner has led small from an honour, East can safely play the 10. The **K** would be a waste card. This is often a frequent play holding up an honour as a guard against a smaller honour in dummy. Also many experts dread leading small from Jack. Try to find another suit.

3. One golden rule – on opening lead never lead away from an Ace in a suit contract.
4. Also try to avoid leading the ace without the king – try to find another suit.
5. 2nd highest from a non-honour suit.

From a suit **without an honour** i.e. suits headed by the 10 or less, lead the second highest. Then play the highest card on the next round. With three small

cards play the middle – often referred to as **MUD** – middle up down.

AJ54
8763 **K102**
Q9

As west, you lead the 7, (second highest from a suit without an honour). Partner can interpret that this is not your fourth highest, and plays the king. To play the 10 will result in the King being trumped on the third round. On the second round you play the 8 clarifying to partner it is not from a doubleton. Often this lead is referred to as a defensive lead.

6. Top of a Doubleton.

It is usually the proper play to lead the top card from a doubleton suit, 74. Partner can then judge whether to give you a ruff on the third round. Avoid leading from **Kx** or **Qx** unless partner has bid the suit. Then of course lead the honour. An exception is holding **AK** or **QJ** doubleton. Lead the lower card followed by the higher one. This distinguishes this lead from the “higher of the two touching honours when holding more than two cards in the suit”.

Tony Agar

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members are not in this issue. As soon as they are available in December they will be posted on the club website

From the Director

MISTAKEN EXPLANATION

If a player realises that he has given incorrect information to the other side [included alerting incorrectly or failure to alert], **the player who has given the wrong information** should call the director **before the opening lead is faced** [or during play if discovered later] and then give the correct explanation. *The Director may be called when the mistake is discovered during the auction, but this is no longer required by law.*

If the offender's partner realises that an incorrect explanation of his call has been given, he must do nothing during the auction.

- If their side become Declarer/Dummy: **call the Director after the final pass.**
- If their side become Defenders: **call the Director after play ends.**

What happens when a player knows that he is required to alert his partner's call, but can't remember WHY!

Call the Director, who will ask the player to leave the table; the player making the bid will then be asked to explain to the opponents what the bid meant. They are entitled to this information. Unfortunately, the 'forgetful one' will not be permitted to hear partner's explanation!

MISTAKEN CALL

Should a call be alerted, and after hearing partner's explanation of the partnership agreement, the bidder now realises that he has made a mistake, and partner's explanation is actually the correct description of the partnership agreement. Now, the given explanation must stand, and it must not be corrected.

Finally, it would be obvious that, after making a bid which needs to be alerted, and seeing this fail to happen, may the bidder UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES tell his partner, 'You need to alert that!!'

BASIC ALERTING

Some simple alerting situations for less experienced players.

Alerts are compulsory. Players alert their partners' calls when required. These alerts need to occur immediately the call is made. The partner should say 'Alert' and circle the call. If asked, be precise in explaining the full meaning of the bid. If partner fails to alert, do not make circling motions or similar over the bidding slip.

Self-alerting calls should not be alerted. These include

- double
- redoubles
- cue bids of an opponent's suit
- calls at the 4-level or higher [but a conventional **opening** bid at the 4 level or higher is alertable]
- 2C response to a 1NT bid, in an uncontested auction

Natural calls are generally not alertable.

Natural suit bids shows 3+ cards in the denomination, and player is prepared to play in that suit.

A natural No Trump bid shows a player is prepared to play in No Trump.

Examples of some alerts during the uncontested auction

- Weak jump responses
- Forcing 1NT response
- Fourth suit forcing
- Transfer bids
- Strong openings 2C/ 2D (& negative or hcp responses)
- 1C Pass 1D! denying a 4/5-card Major
- Multi-two bids

Examples of alerts In a competitive auction

- Overcalls showing 2 suits, one of which is named
- Unusual 2NT
- Natural NT overcall which may not have a stopper in the bid suit
- 1NT 2C 2D! showing no 4-card Major, or 1NT 2C 2D showing both Majors

Simple transfer accepts are not alertable unless they are giving information of length or strength [super accepts].

Extended Stayman responses which also show a point range are alertable.

When an opponent makes an alerted or self alerted call, an opposing player may ask about the Alert at his first opportunity to call but should **only** ask if the alerted bid will affect their call (do not ask simply because you wanted to know).

Robyn Grills

Paul Marston's Bridge week

Held at Noosa in October 2017, it was most enjoyable, even though the rain bucketed down for all but the last day. In fact not only did it rain heavily, but we were lashed by the strongest of winds so most of us got quite wet walking from the accommodation to the venue - which was only next door.

However, we were bright eyed and bushy tailed waiting for the pearls of Bridge wisdom that Paul would certainly bestow on us. Seven days is a long time playing Bridge and listening to Bridge talks every day, and I think most of us were quite relieved when it was over. Did we get our money's worth? Yes, certainly. Did we learn a huge new amount about Bridge? We could have, if we read the notes and remembered them. This particular player didn't except I have got a couple of useful little hints up my sleeve. ps must read my notes!

There was a large contingent from Arana, and we socialised together most nights, having one splendid dinner out in a restaurant on the Noosa

River. On the last day Dawn drove a few people around in her 4WD and toured Noosa and Tewantin. That's the way to do it..... with a chauffeur.

They also did a lot of walking that day.

The talking points with Paul were:-

1. Control Bidding. This is the bid of a new suit above 3NT after a trump suit has been agreed or implied. This is to co-operate in slam bidding.

2. Opening Leads.

3. Competing at the 2 and 3 level.

4. Competing at game level.

These odd weeks away playing Bridge with an expert coach are good for a variety of reasons. You socialise with players with whom you might not necessarily talk much at the club. You get away from housework for a week. And last but not least, you might learn a little bit more about the great game of Bridge.

I must say that Jan McRobbie and Liz Marshall did Arana proud by coming 4th out of 75 partnerships in the competitions. Congrats, Jan and Liz!

Pictured below at Noosa Beach are Beth O'Reilly, Anna Green, Jenny Walker, Jan McRobbie and Dawn Benes.



Melbourne Cup Day

A great day was had by all. Marianne McPherson attended to the food and was overwhelmed by the amazing generosity of members with their food donations. She thanks you all.

Following are photos from the day. Good to see Lorraine Steele at the club again and thanks Owen Marks for the photography. No names provided – you know who you are!



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Contributions may be by email (preferred) or by placing a note in the ideas box at the clubhouse